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(12) **United States Patent**
Yoda et al.

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(45) **Date of Patent: Feb. 2, 2016**

(54) **IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM**

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(73) Assignee: **Seiko Epson Corporation**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/199,827**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 6, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0253643 A1 Sep. 11, 2014

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Mar. 7, 2013 (JP) 2013-046035

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04N 1/034	(2006.01)
G06K 15/22	(2006.01)
B41J 2/175	(2006.01)
B41J 29/02	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***B41J 2/175*** (2013.01); ***B41J 2/17509*** (2013.01); ***B41J 2/17523*** (2013.01); ***B41J 29/02*** (2013.01); *B41J 2002/17516* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 347/3, 85, 108, 138, 214; 358/1.3, 296, 358/400, 401, 474, 500–503; 3/3, 85, 108, 3/138, 214

See application file for complete search history.

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Workman Nydegger

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is an image forming system including a case that accommodates an ink accommodating body which accommodates ink, a connection tube through which ink within the ink accommodating body can be supplied, and an image forming apparatus that has an ink jet printer that can eject the ink supplied through the connection tube and a reading apparatus which a reading surface on which an original copy G that is arranged on the ink jet printer is read. Then, the case is arranged beside the image forming apparatus in such a manner that an upper surface of the case is matched with the reading surface in terms of height.

15 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets

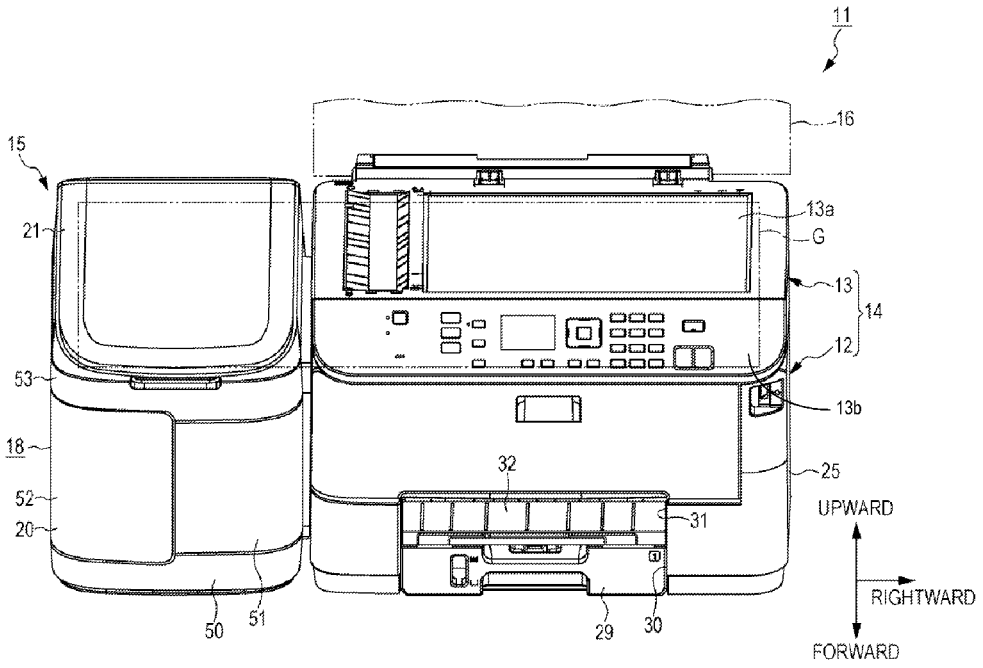

FIG. 1

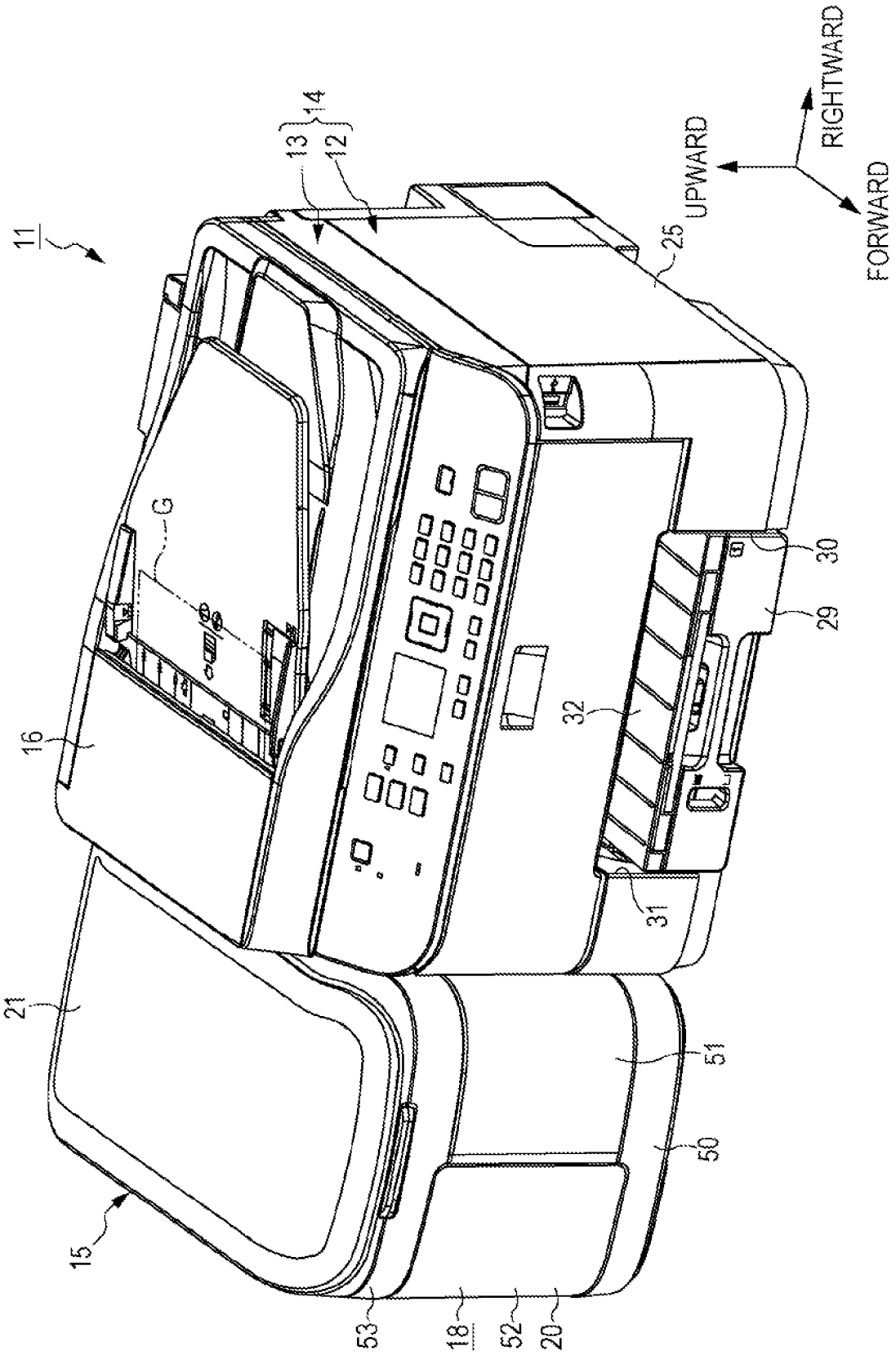
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FIG. 2

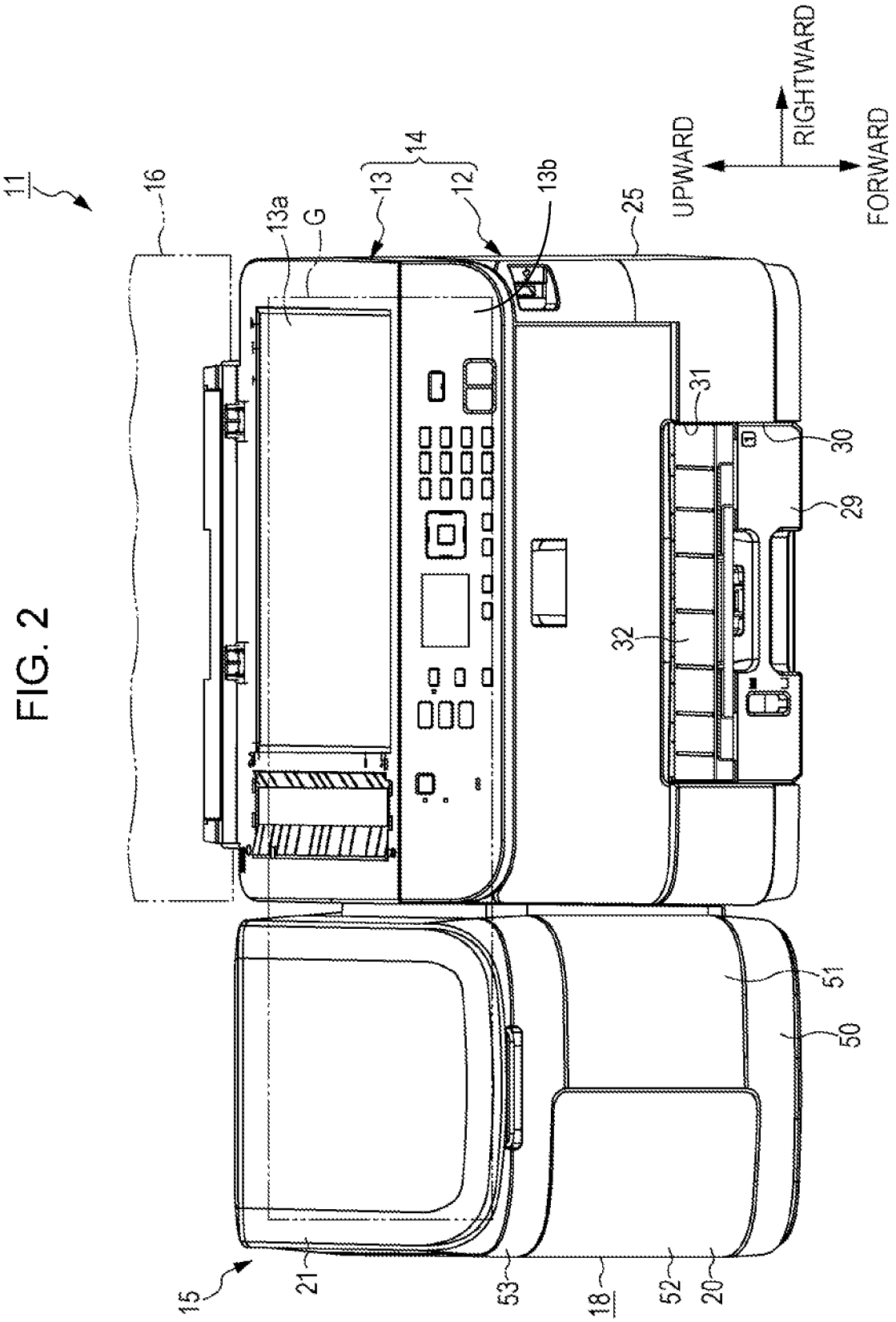
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FIG. 3

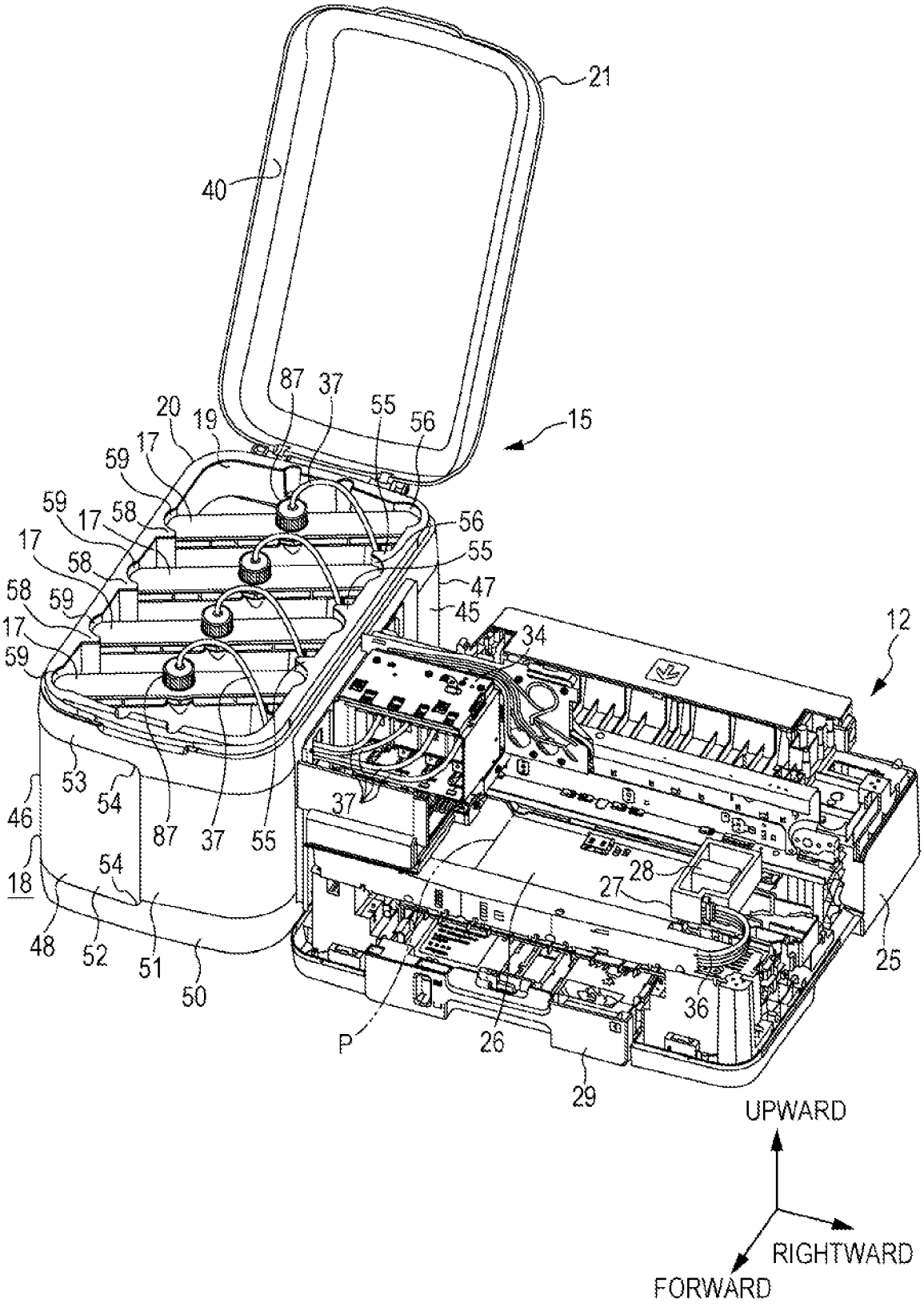
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FIG. 4

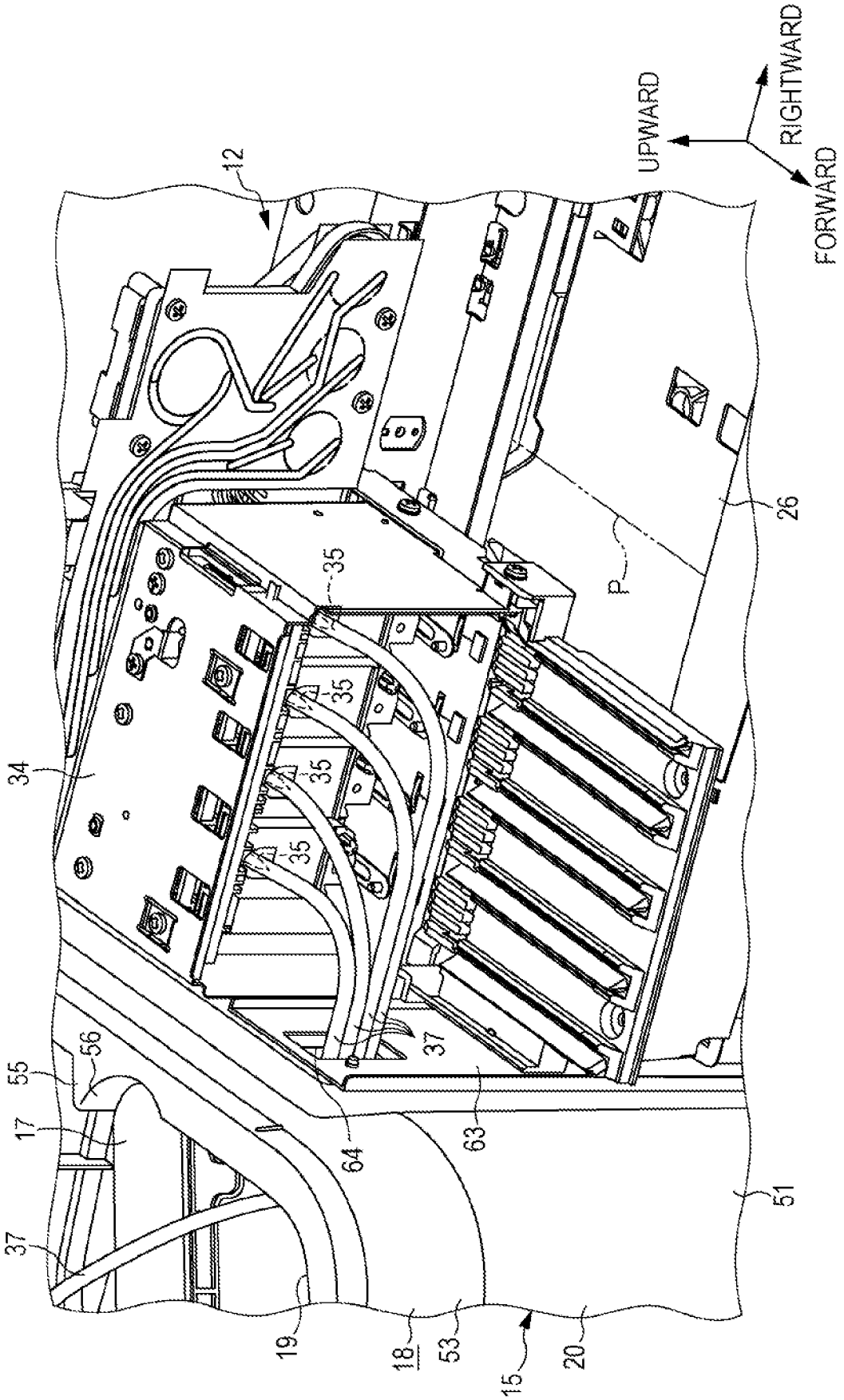
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FIG. 5

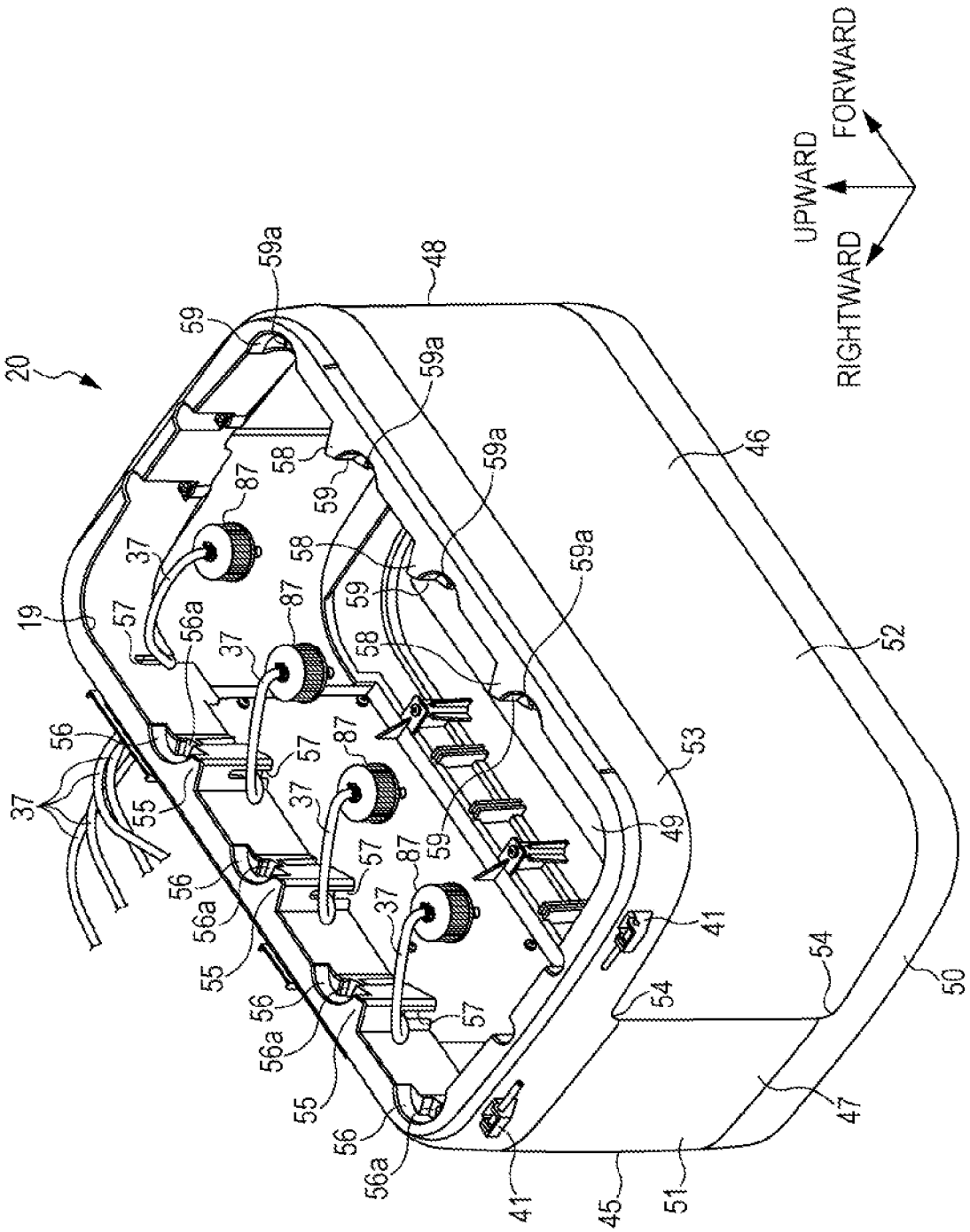
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FIG. 6

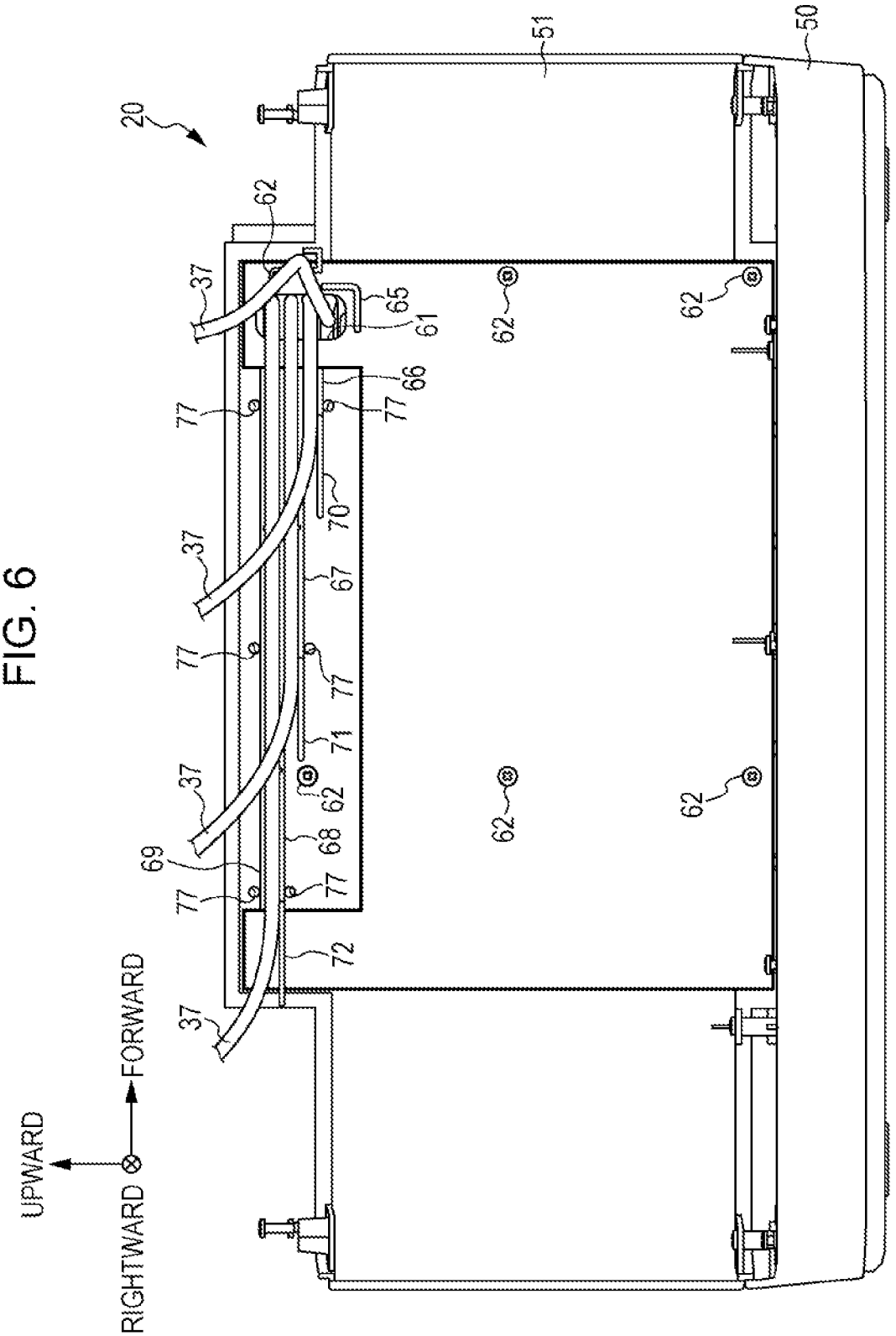
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FIG. 7

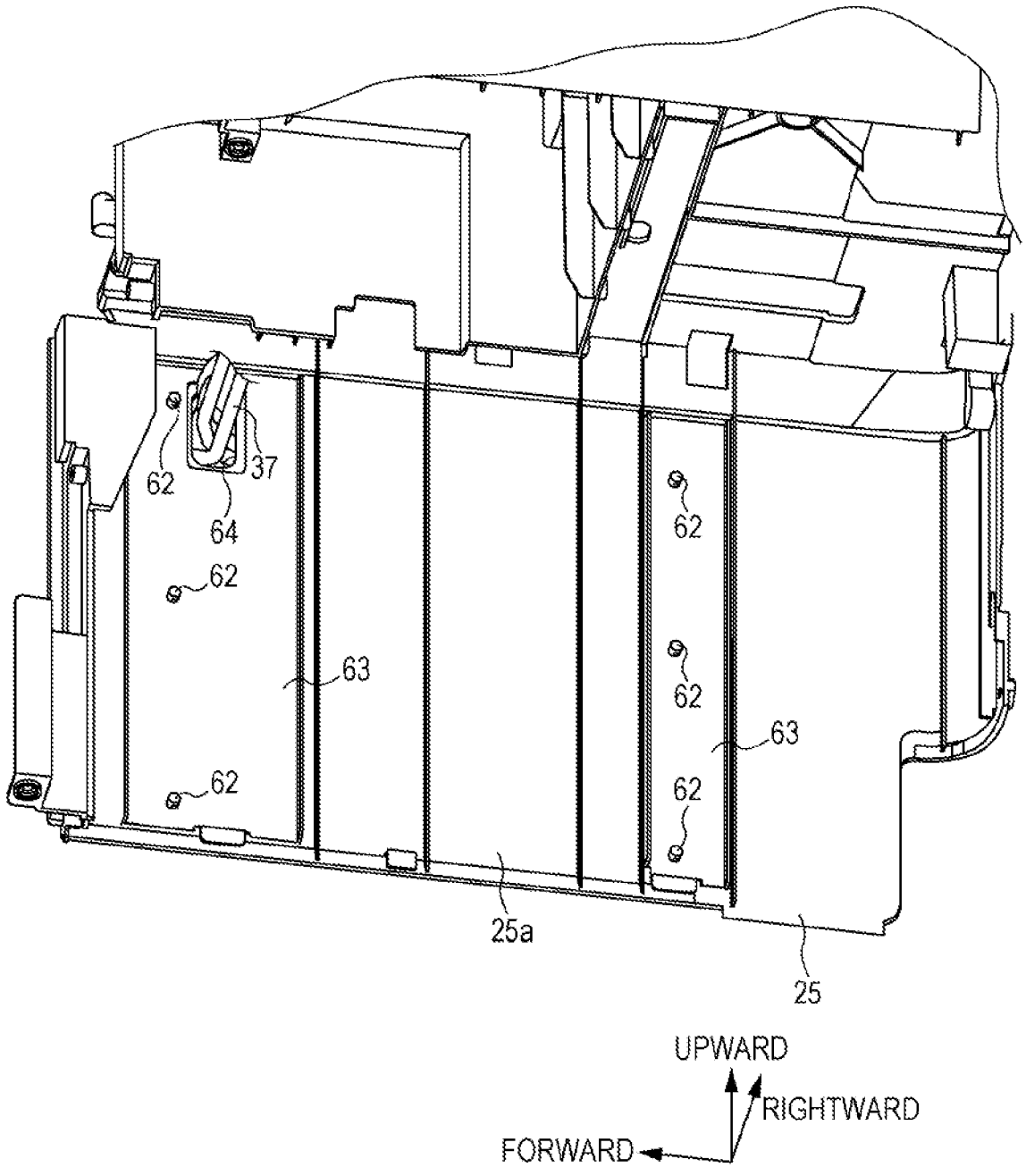
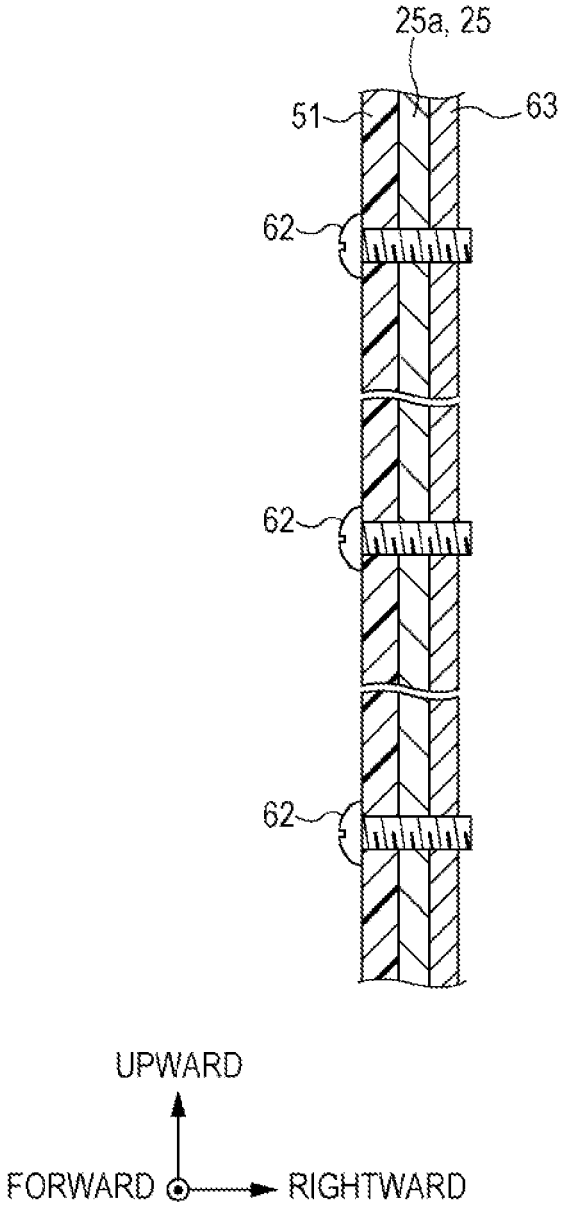


FIG. 8



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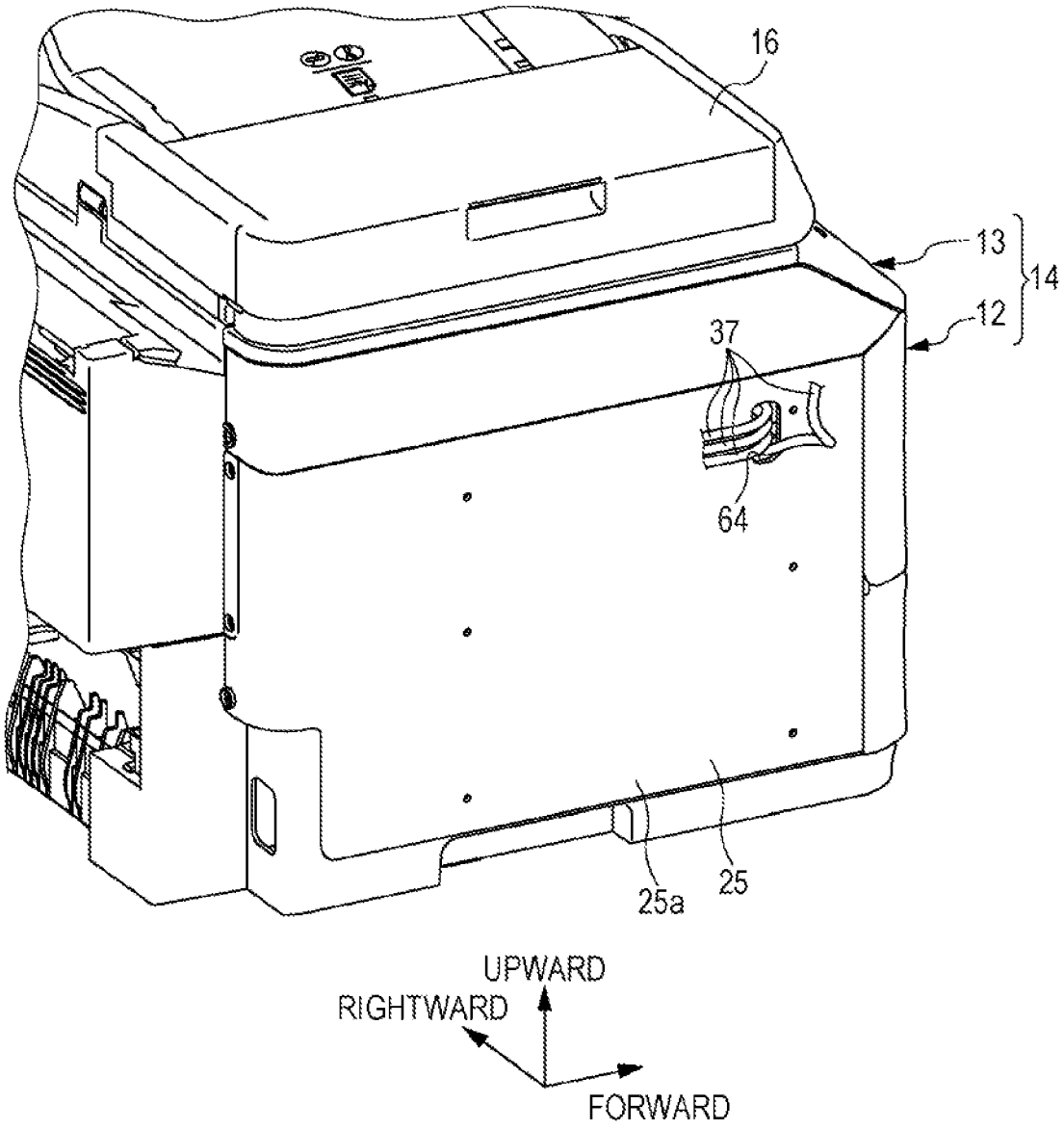

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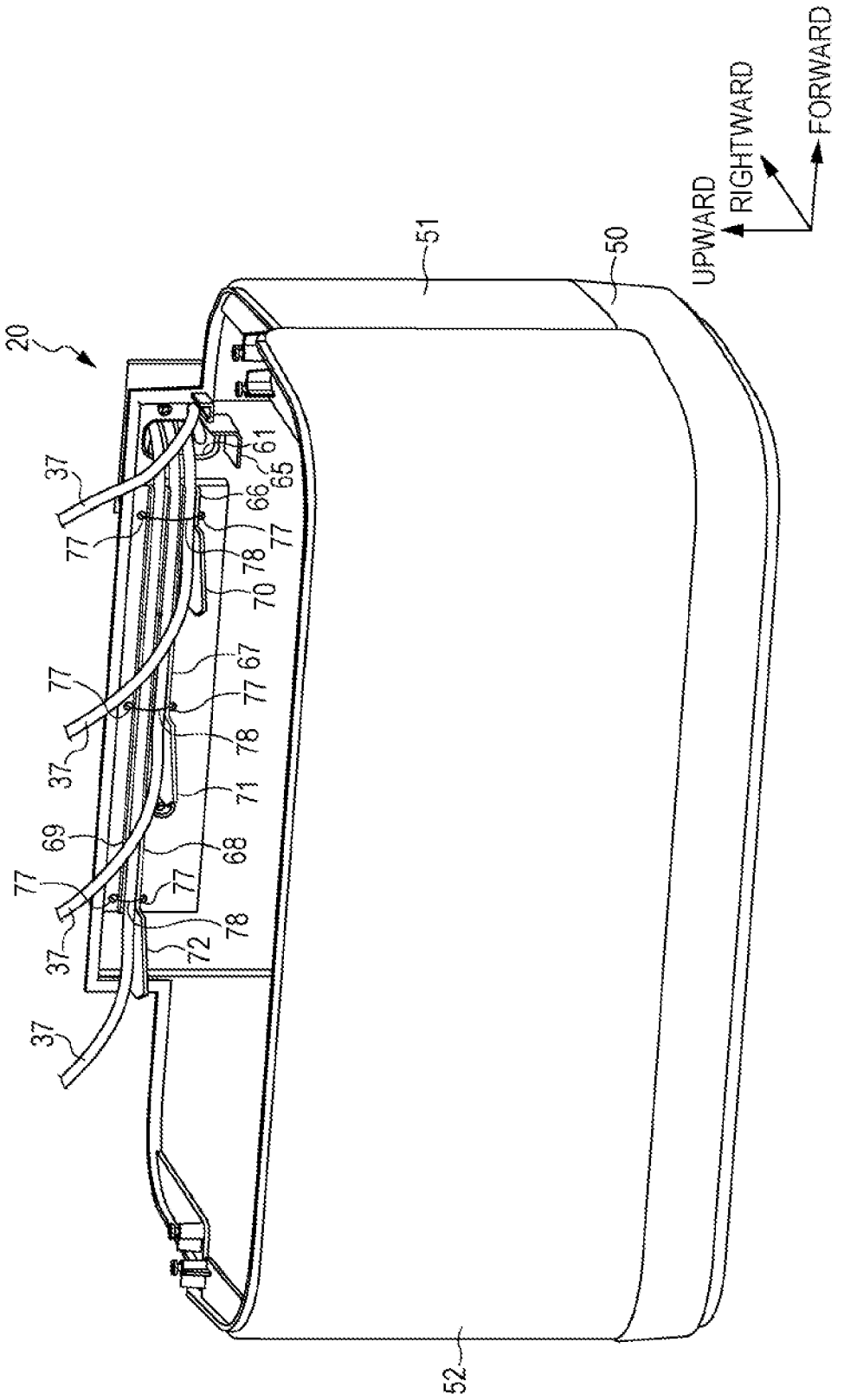
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FIG. 11

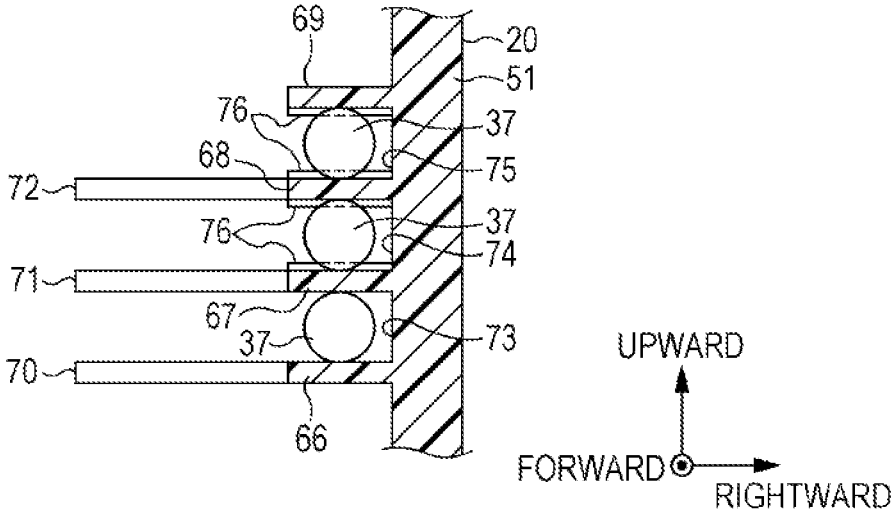
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FIG. 12

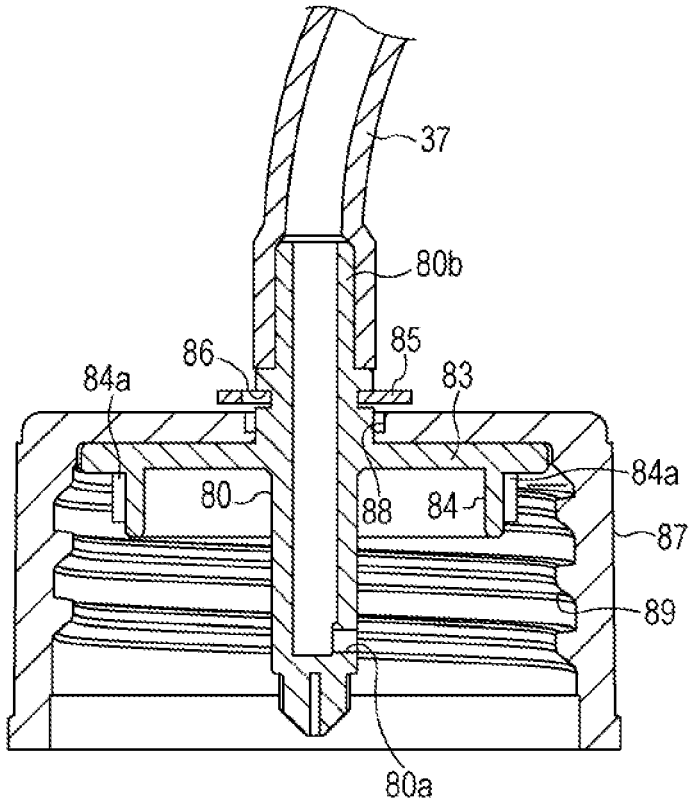
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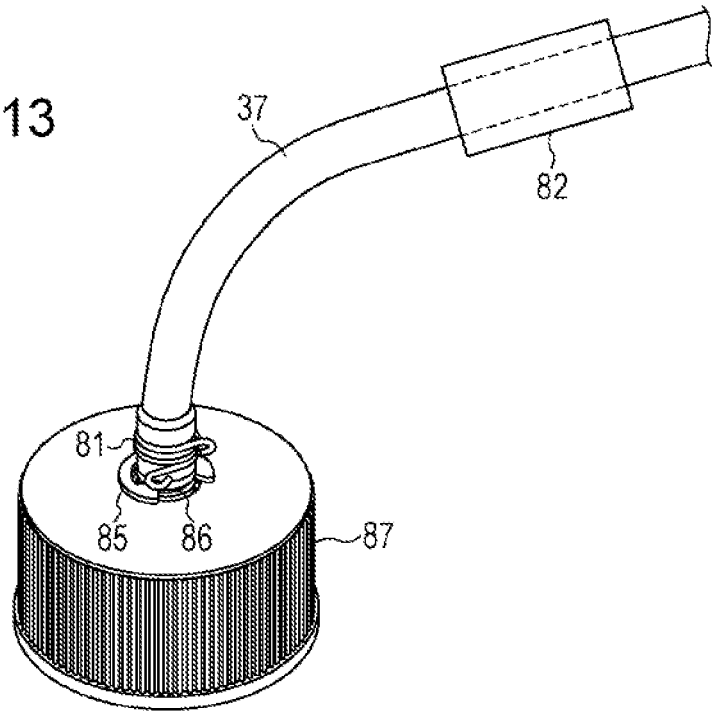
FIG. 13



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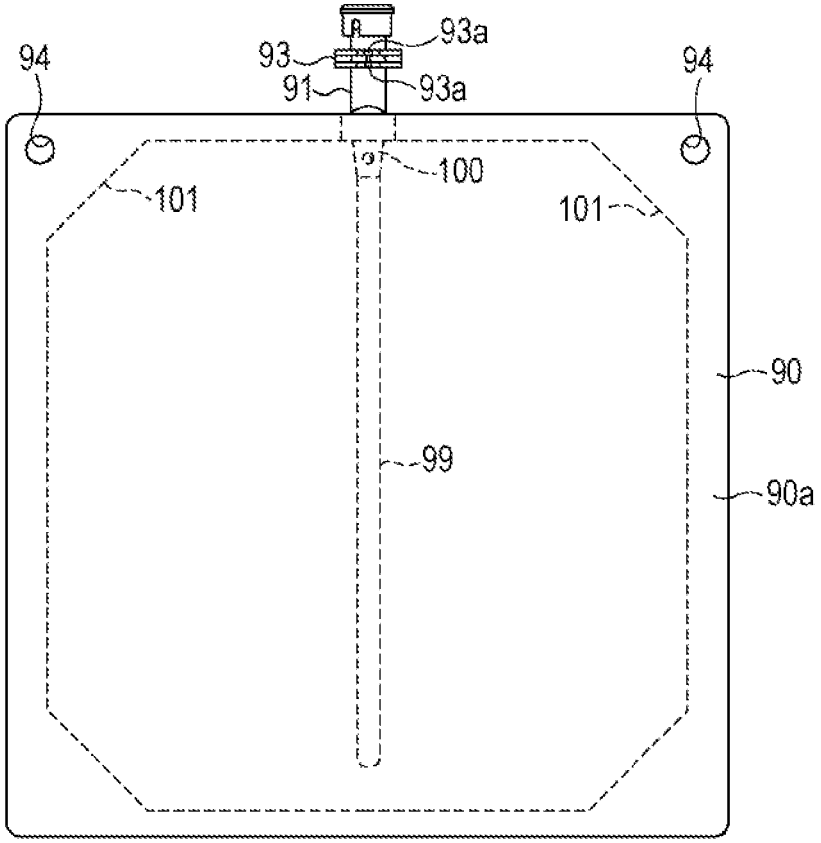

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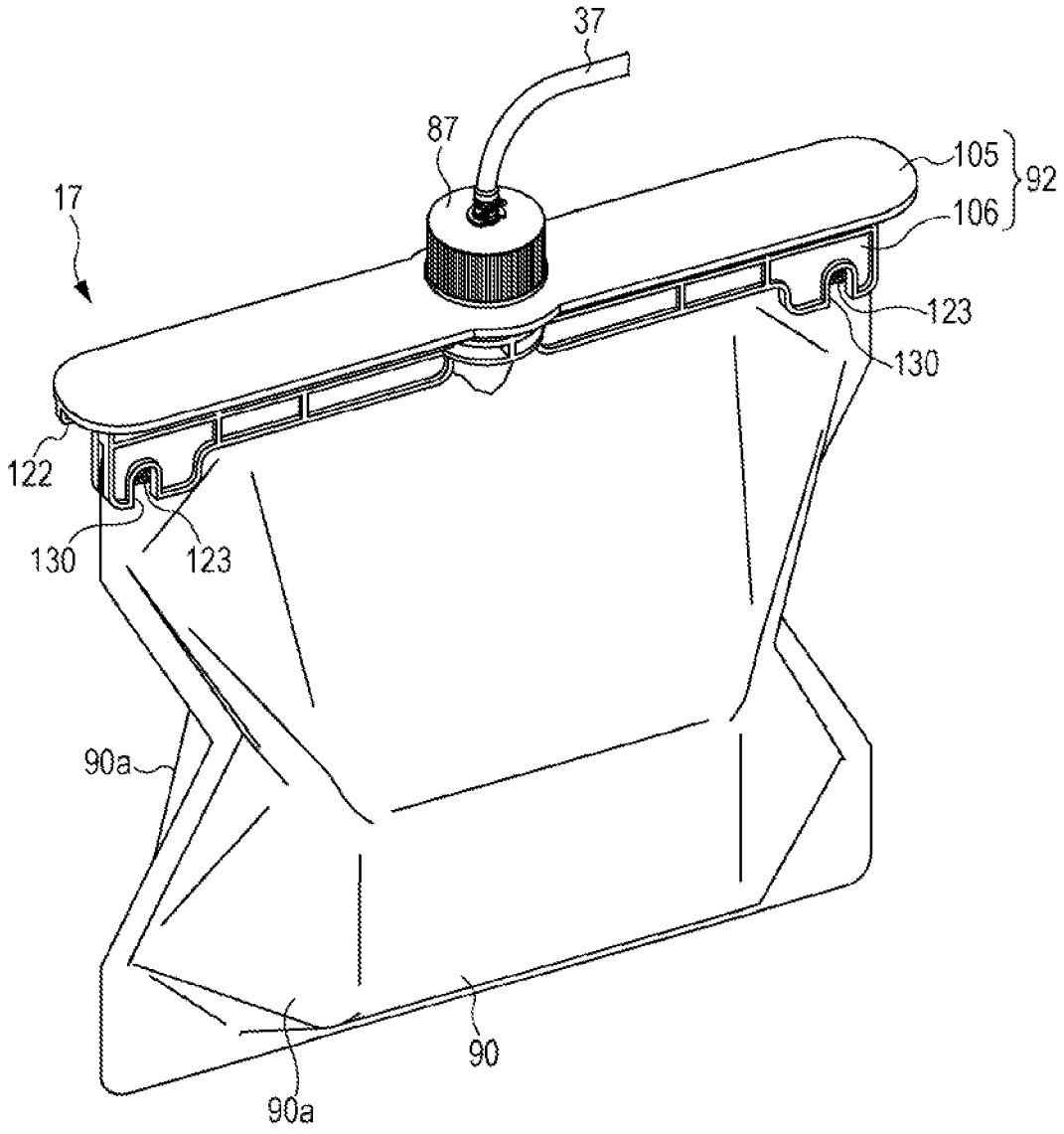

FIG. 16

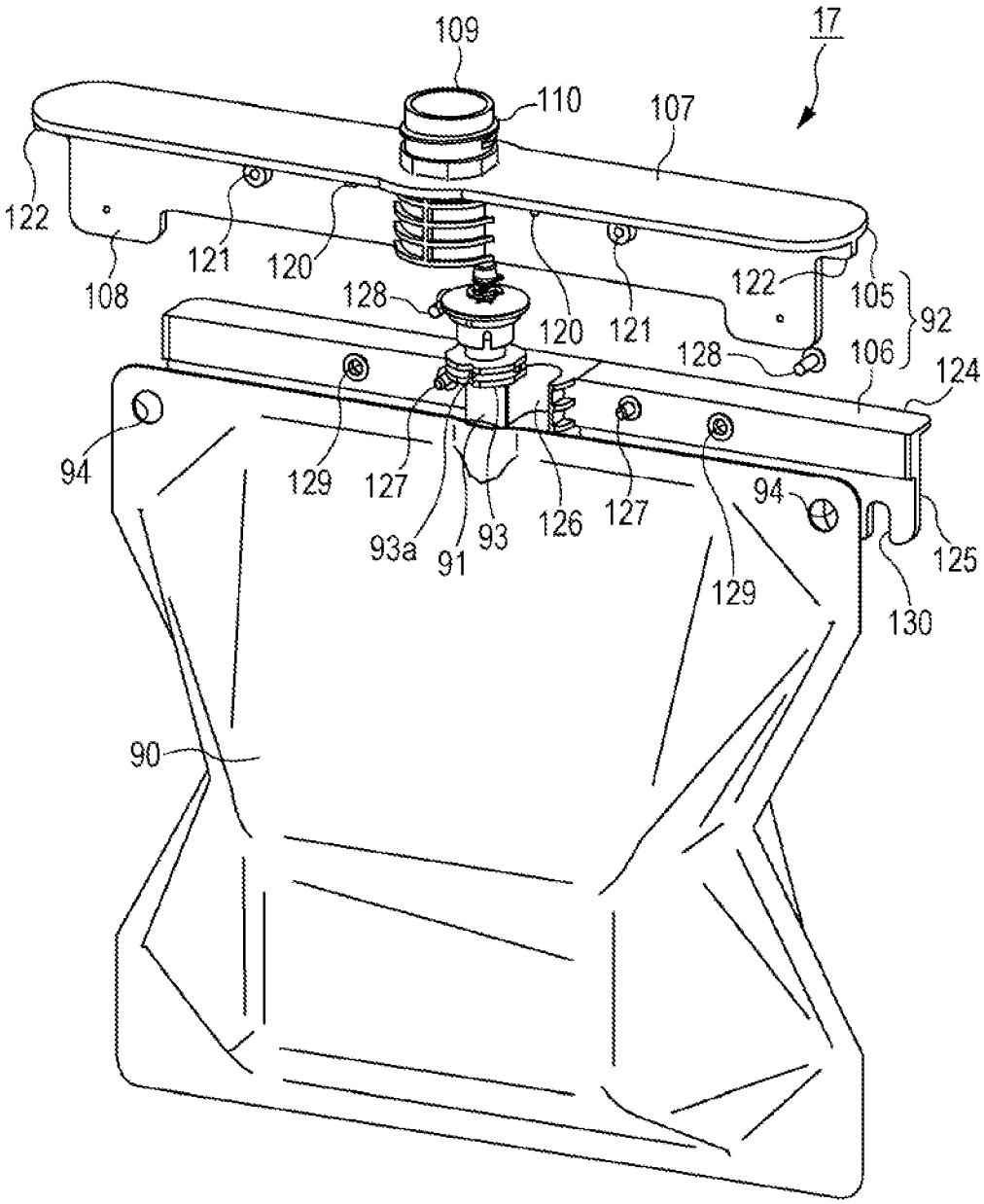
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FIG. 17

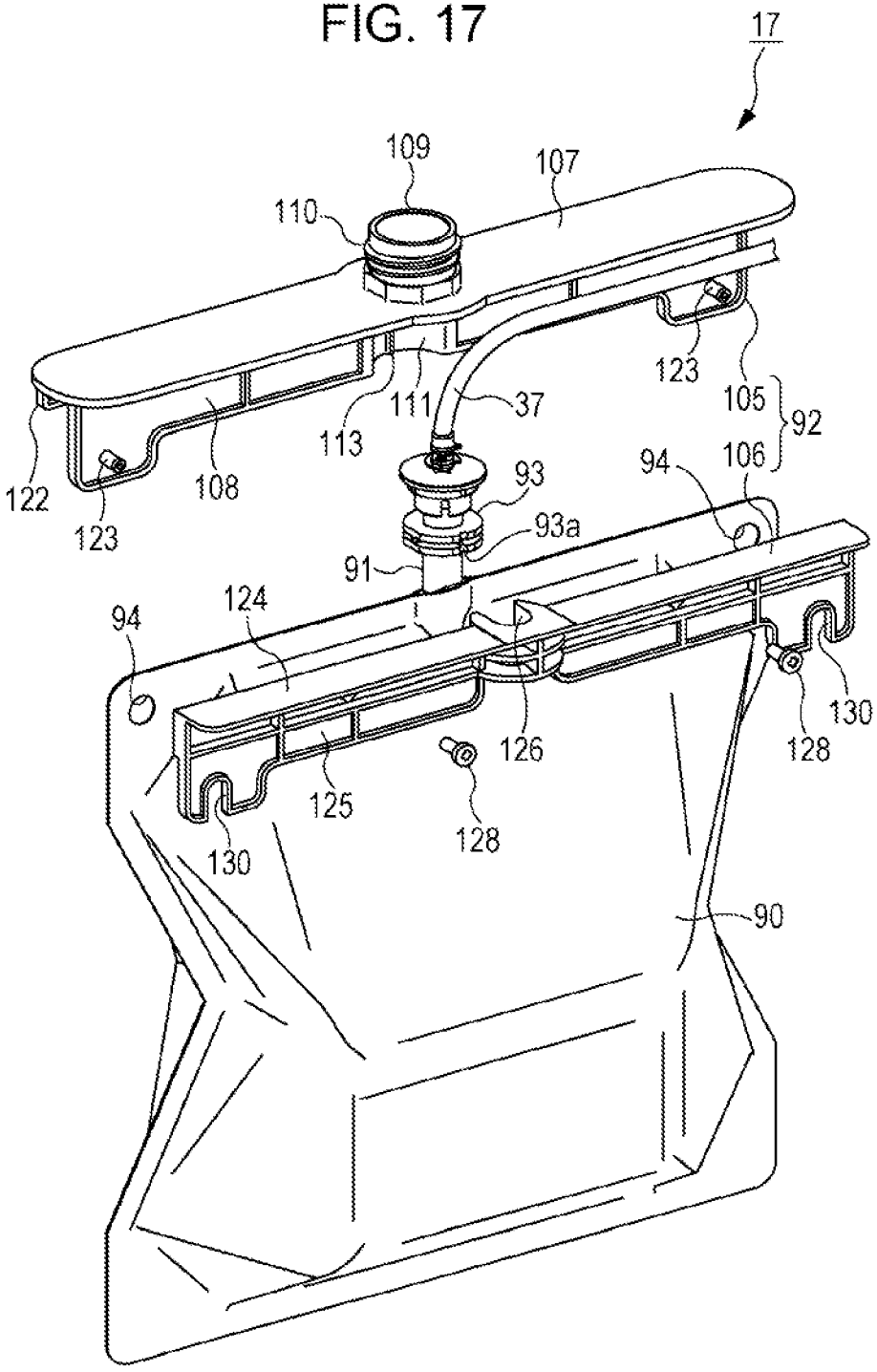
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FIG. 18

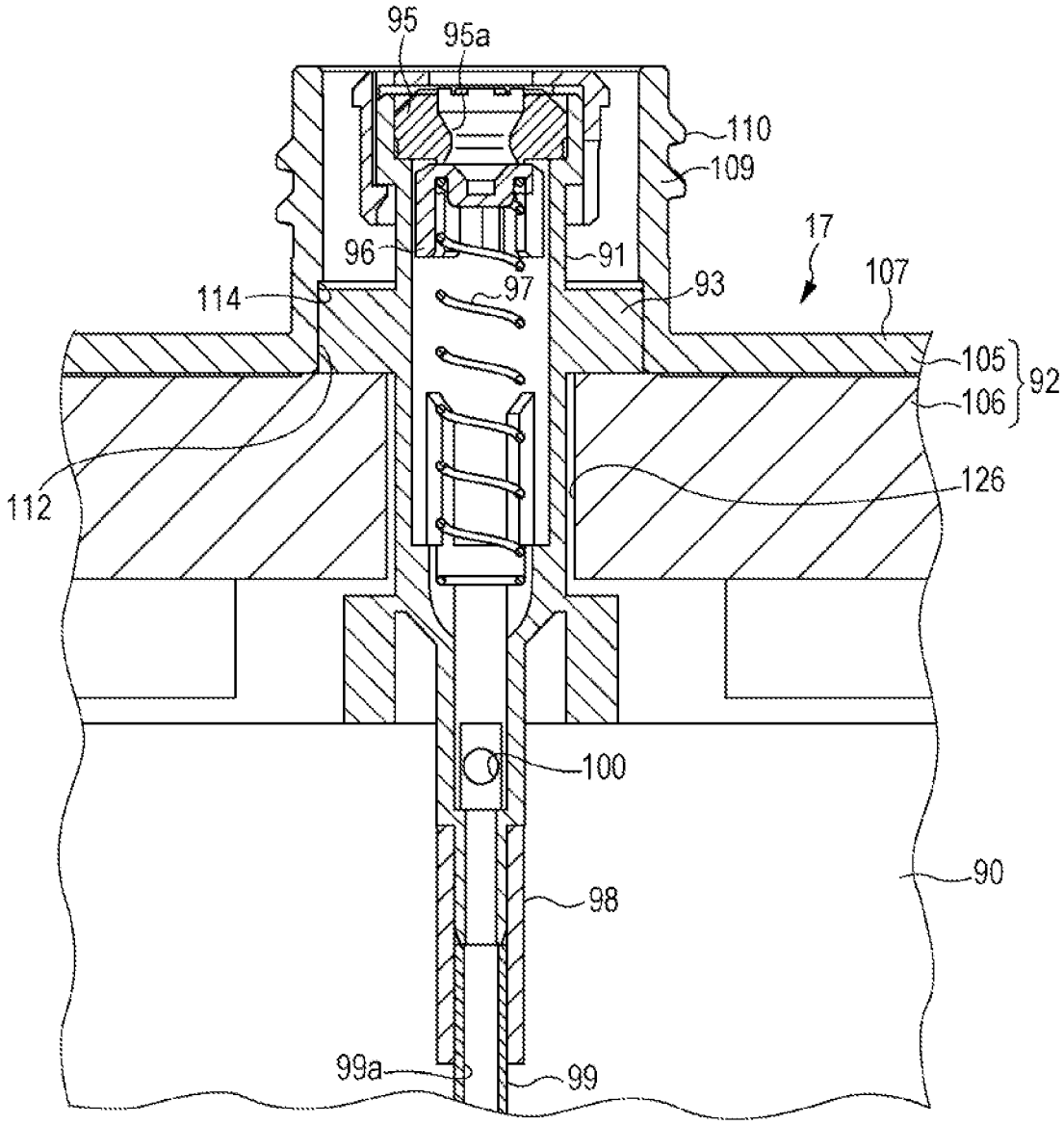
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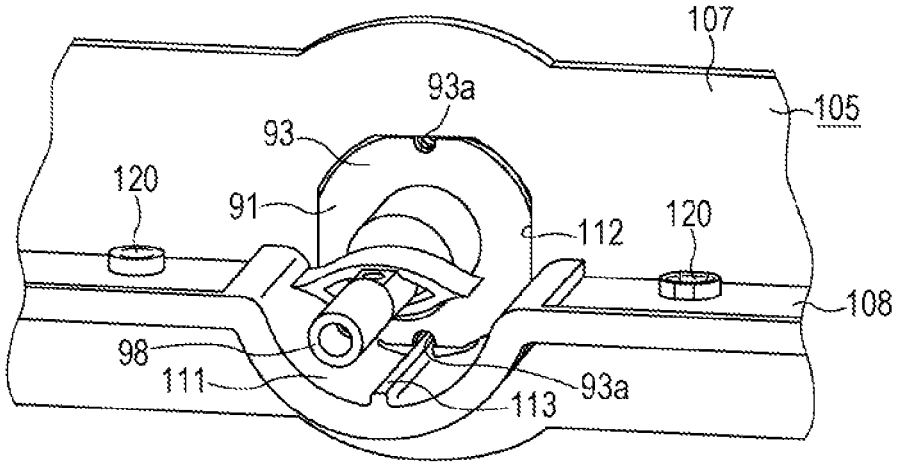
FIG. 19



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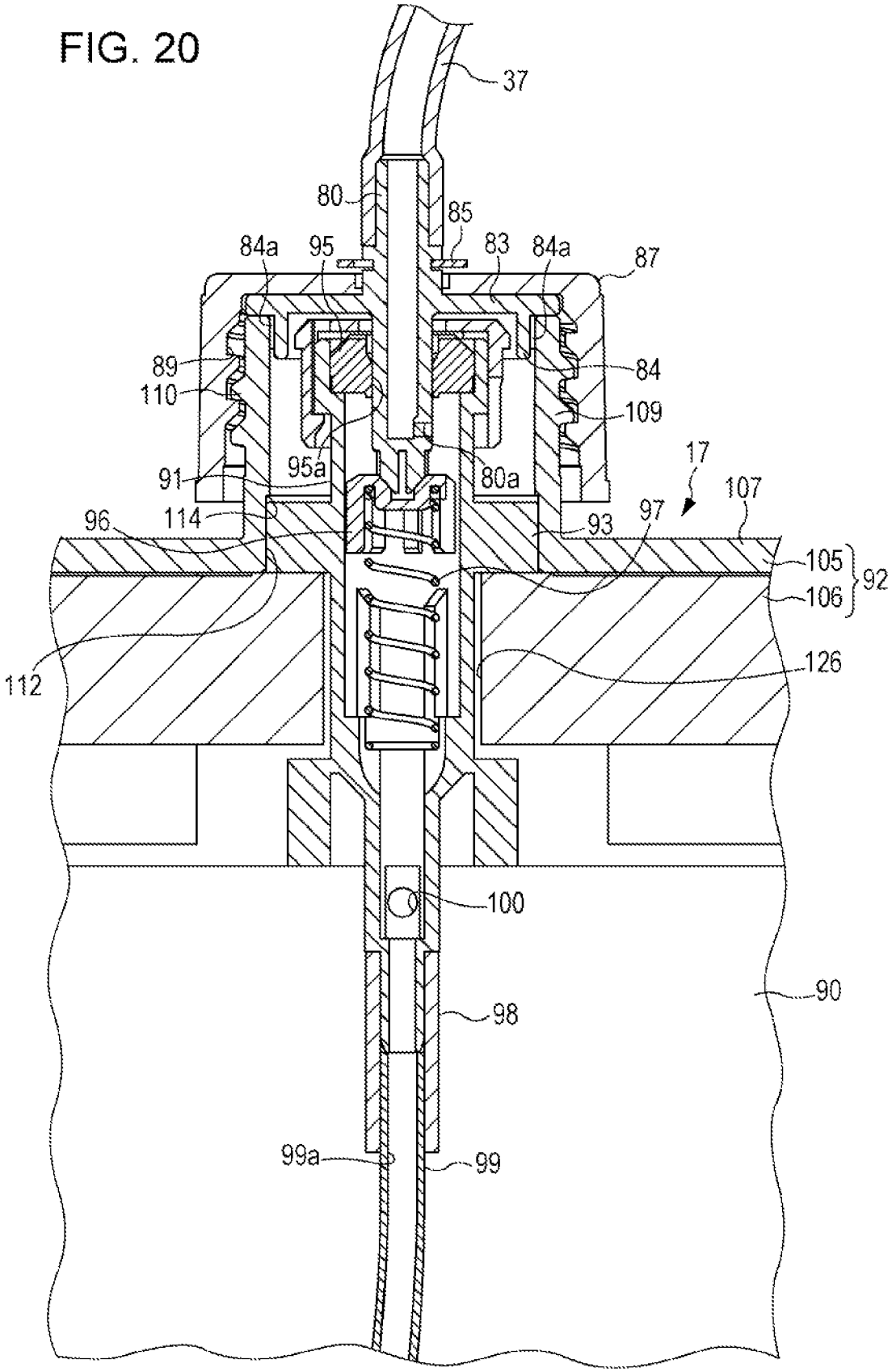
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FIG. 21

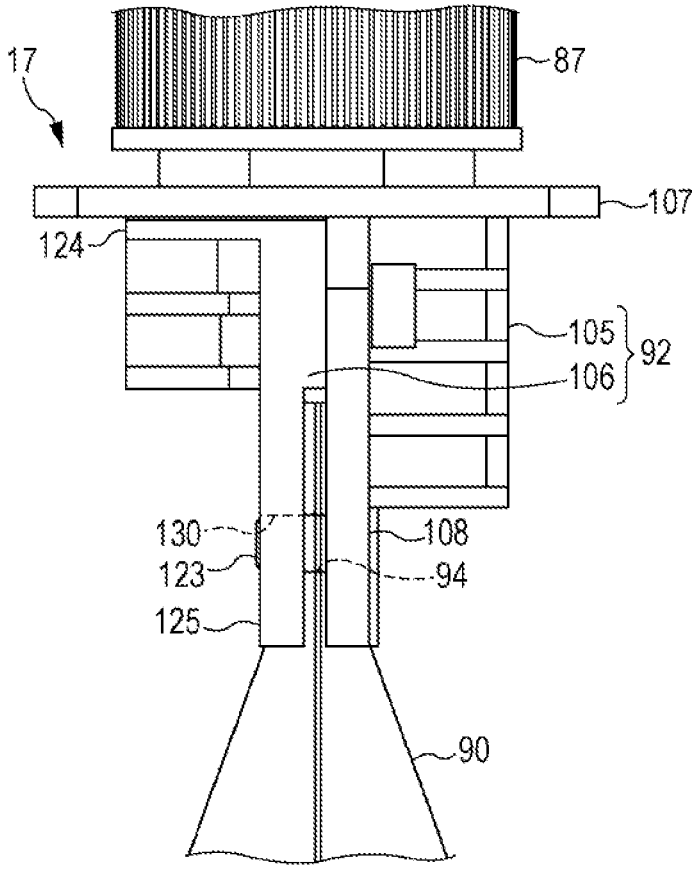

FIG. 22

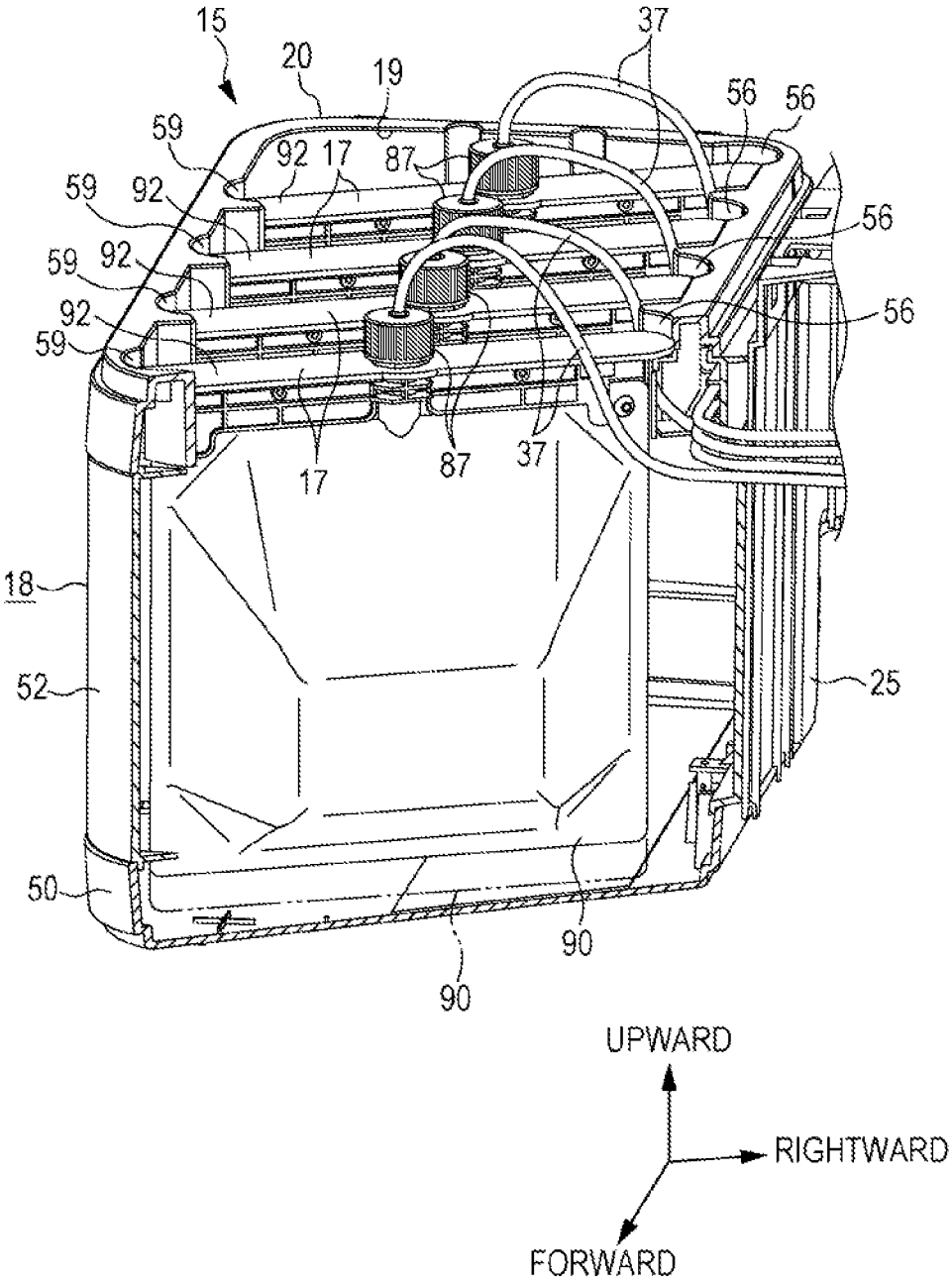
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FIG. 23

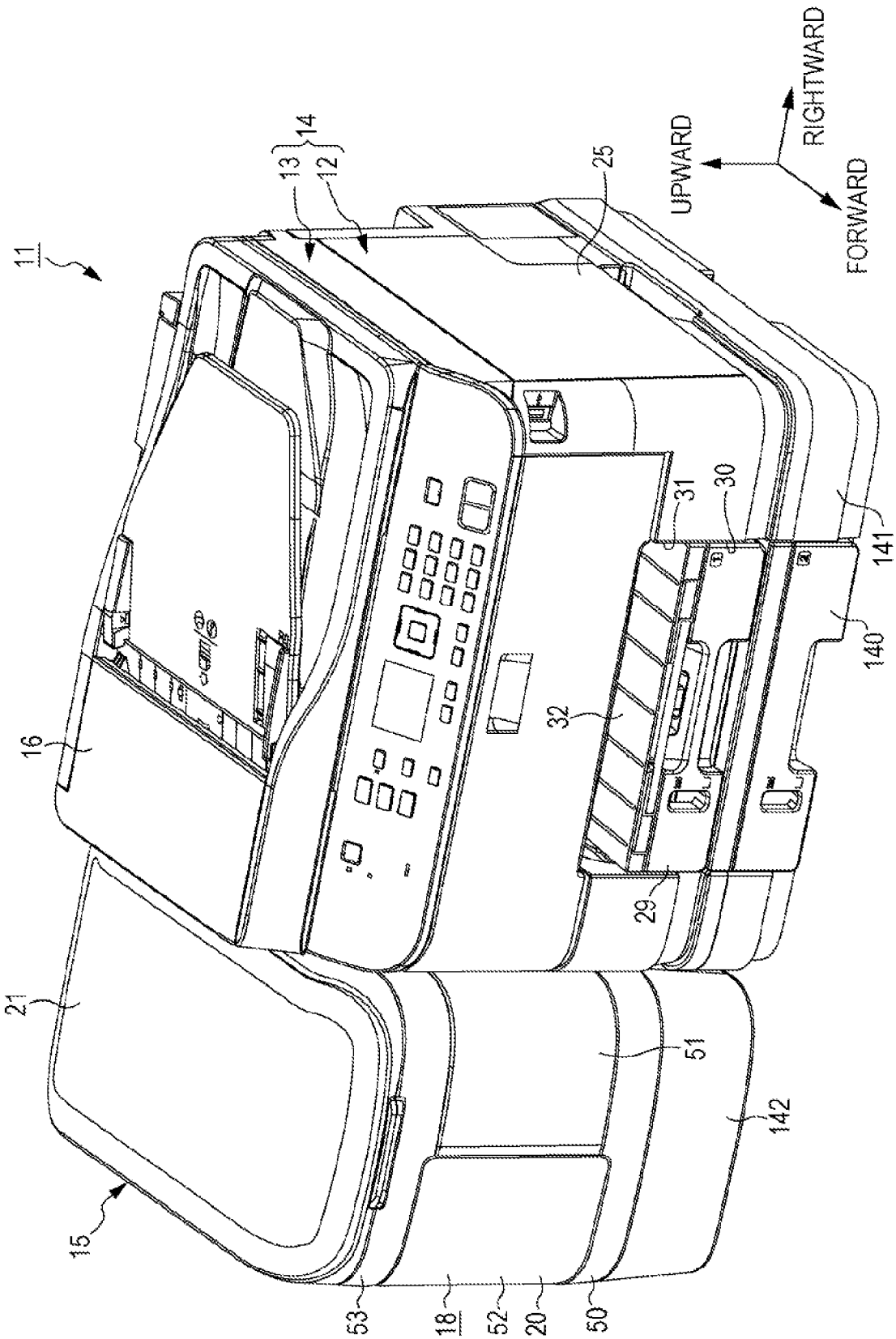
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FIG. 24

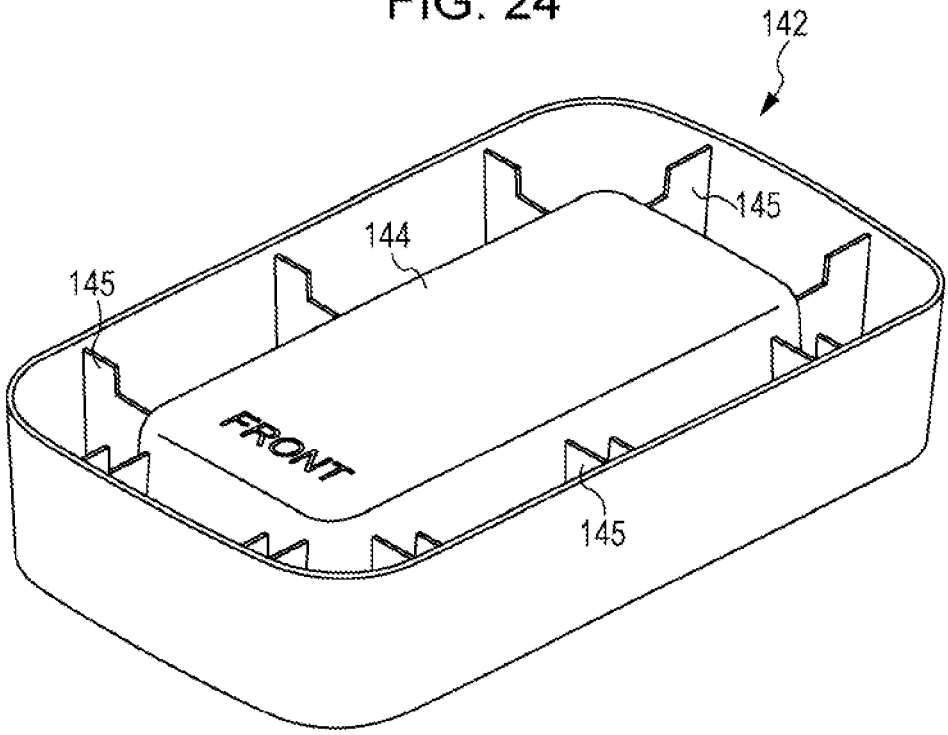

FIG. 25

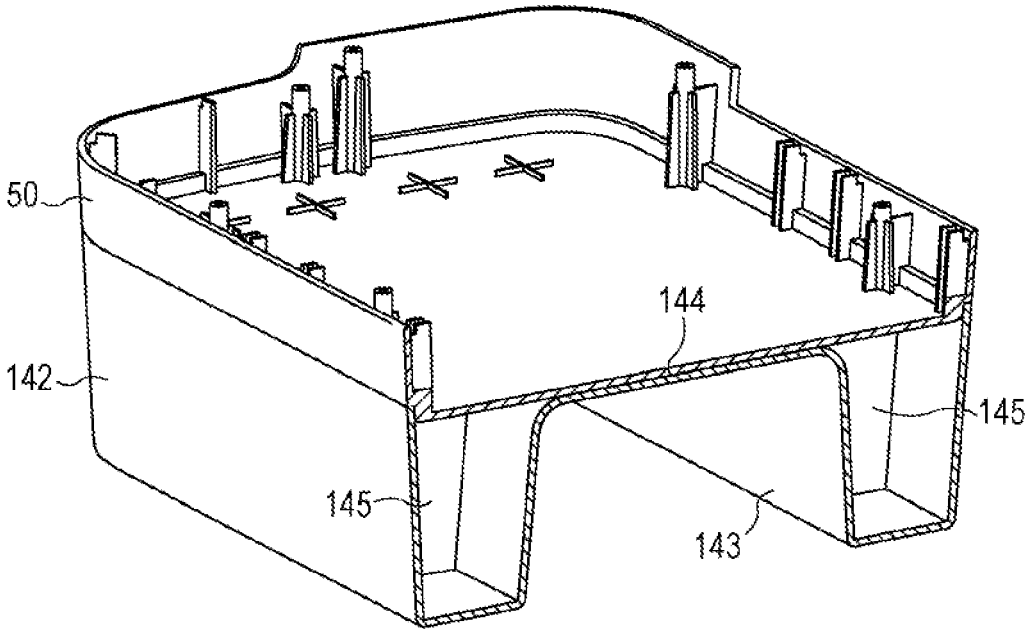

FIG. 26

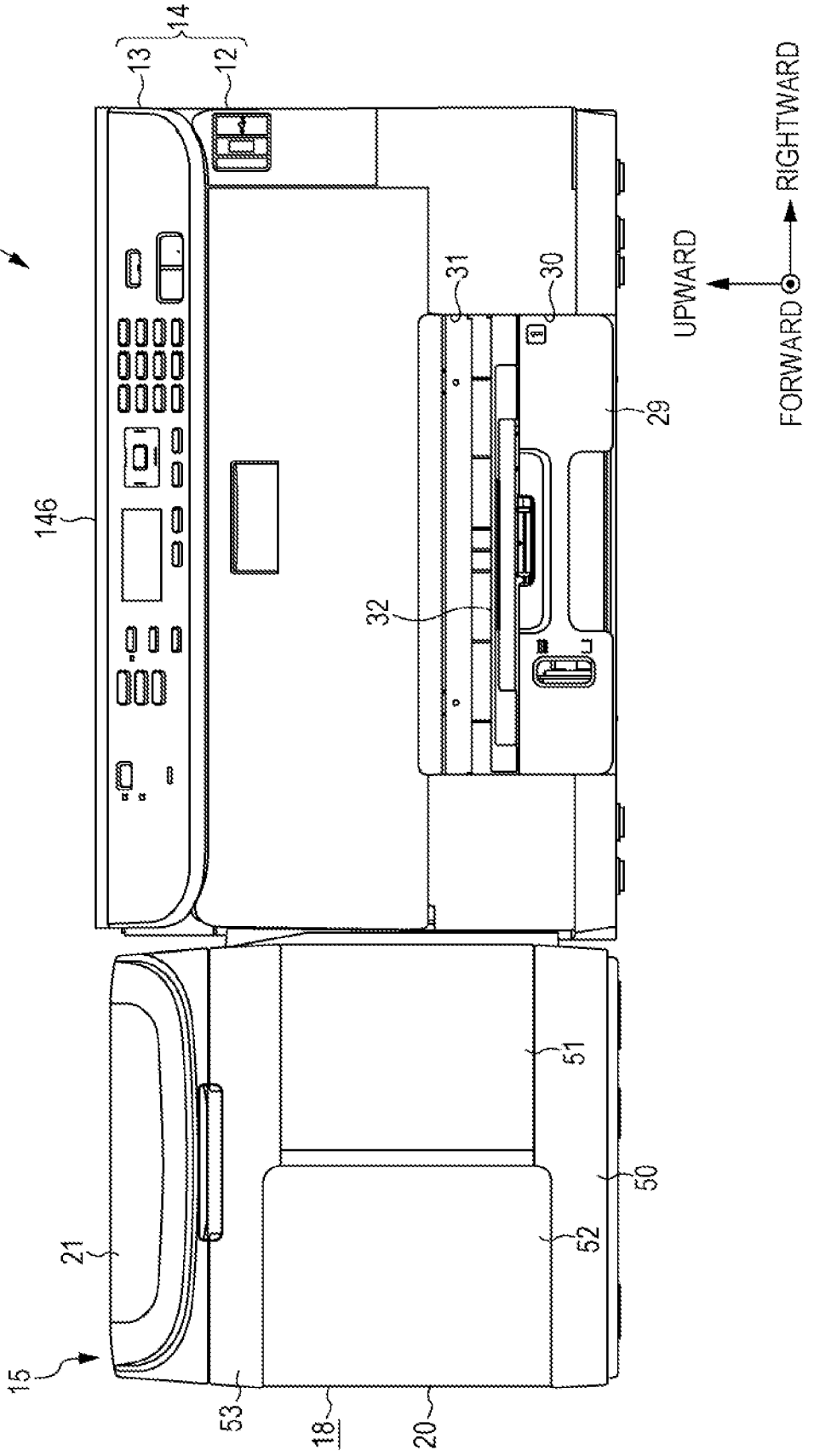
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FIG. 27

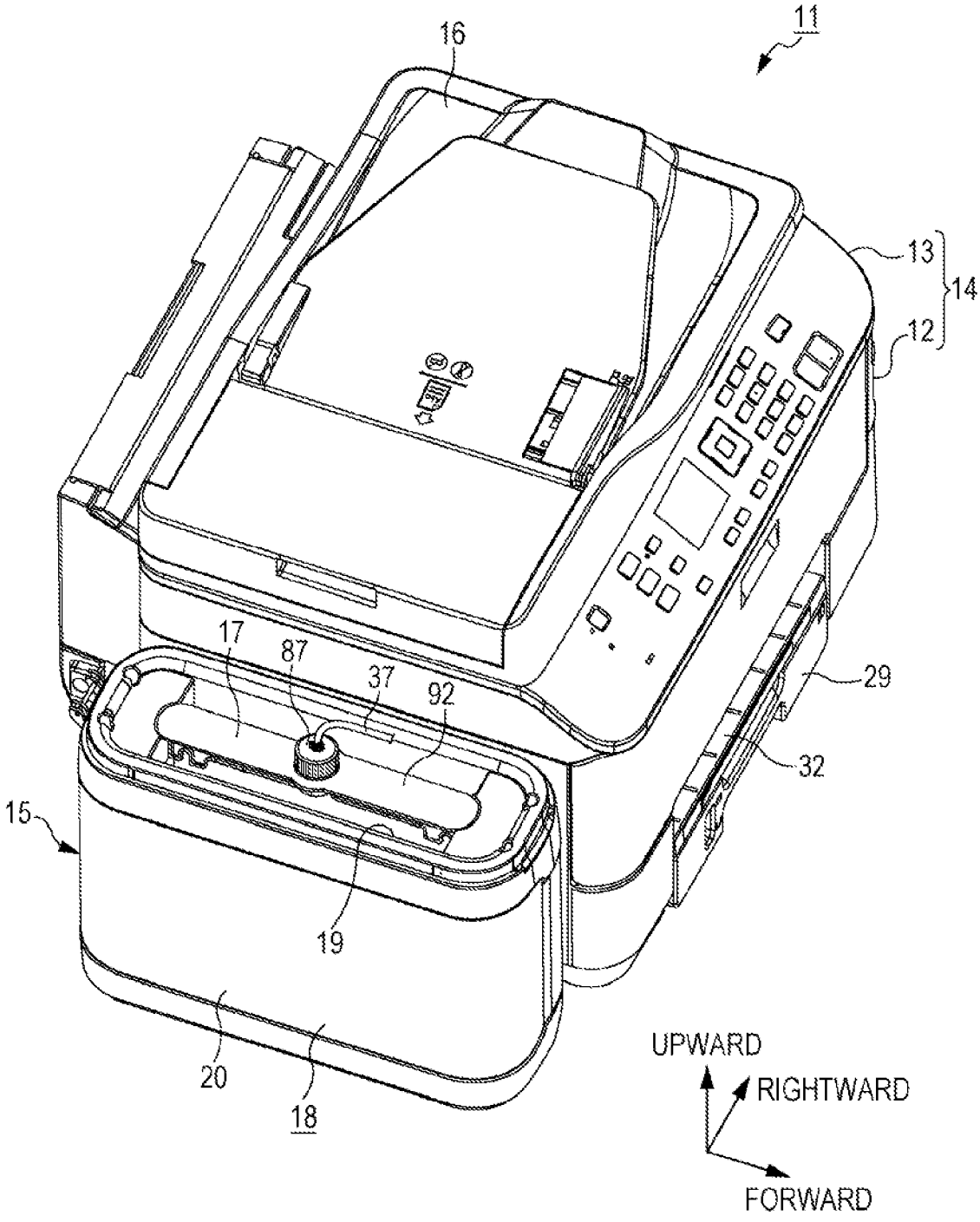
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FIG. 28

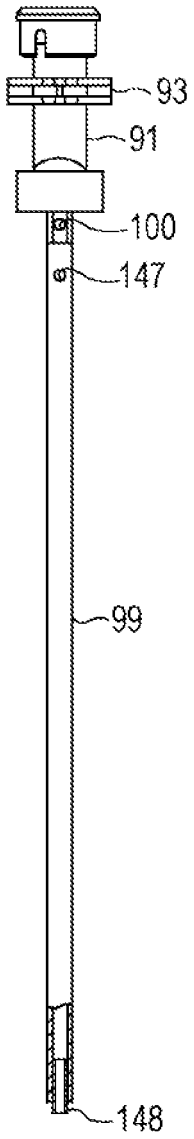

FIG. 29

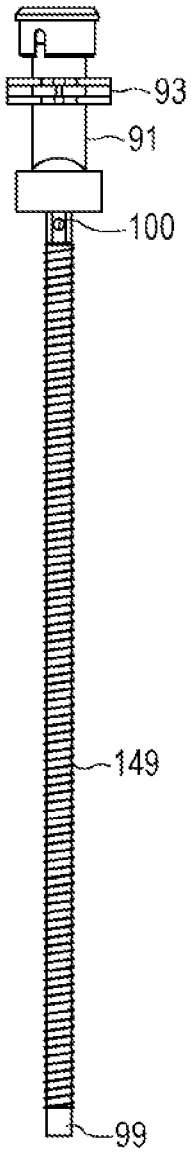

FIG. 30

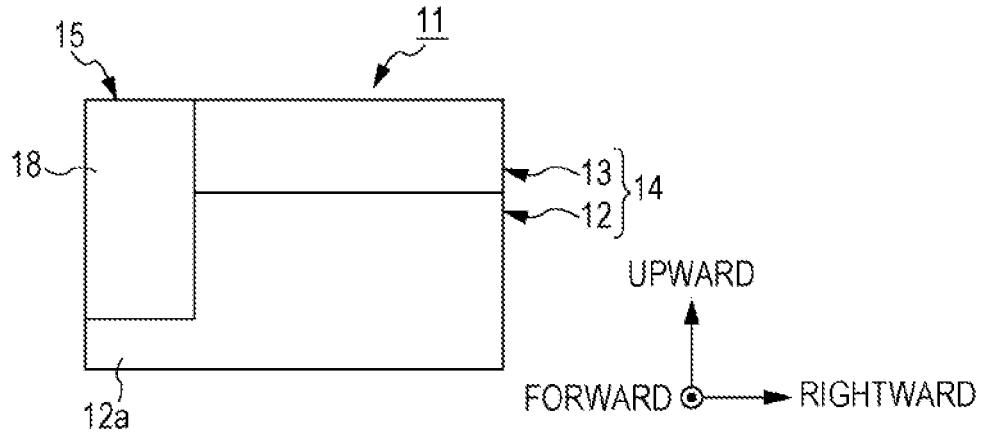

IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to an image forming system.

2. Related Art

In the related art, an image forming apparatus has been known that includes a reading unit that reads an original copy (a medium), and a recording unit that records on a sheet of paper an image that is read in the reading unit (for example, refer to JP-A-2005-191929). In the image forming apparatus, the corresponding original copy normally is read by the reading unit in a state where the original copy is placed on the reading surface.

Incidentally, in the image forming apparatus described above, because the original copy protrudes from the reading surface in a case where the original copy is larger in size than the reading surface is read, there is a problem in that the part of the original copy, which protrudes from the reading surface, cannot be supported at all.

SUMMARY

An advantage of some aspects of the invention is to provide an image forming system that is capable of supporting one portion of a medium protruding from a reading surface using a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle in a case of reading the corresponding medium larger in size than the reading surface.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image forming system including: a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates a liquid accommodating body that accommodates liquid; a tube through which the liquid in the liquid accommodating body can be supplied; and an image forming apparatus that has a liquid ejecting apparatus that is capable of ejecting the liquid supplied through the tube and a reading apparatus which has a reading surface on which a medium that is arranged on the liquid ejecting apparatus is read, in which an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is arranged beside the reading apparatus so as to be matched with the reading surface in terms of height.

With this configuration, in a case where the medium is read that is larger in size than the reading surface of the reading apparatus, one portion of the corresponding medium can be supported by the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle.

Moreover, throughout the present specification, the expression "matched in terms of height" is defined as including not only the same height, but also a height difference of 2 cm or less.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image forming system including: a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates a liquid accommodating body that accommodates liquid; a tube through which the liquid in the liquid accommodating body can be supplied; an image forming apparatus that has a liquid ejecting apparatus that is capable of ejecting the liquid supplied through the tube and a reading apparatus that has a reading surface on which a medium that is arranged on the liquid ejecting apparatus is read, in which an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is arranged beside the reading apparatus so as to be matched with the reading surface in terms of height.

With this configuration, in a case where the medium is read that is larger in size than the reading surface of the reading apparatus, one portion of the corresponding medium can be supported by the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle.

Moreover, throughout the present specification, the expression "matched in terms of height" is defined as including not only the same height, but also a height difference of 2 cm or less.

In the image forming system, the liquid ejecting apparatus may further include an extension portion that extends in such a manner that the extension portion can support the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle.

With this configuration, the liquid-accommodation-body accommodating receptacle can be supported by the extension portion.

In the image forming system, an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle may be lower in height than the reading surface.

With this configuration, when the medium larger in size than the reading surface of the reading apparatus is placed on the corresponding reading surface, the corresponding medium getting stuck in the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle can be suppressed.

In the image forming system, the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle may be attached with respect to the image forming apparatus in a freely attachable and detachable manner.

With this configuration, the liquid-accommodation-body accommodating receptacle can be freely attached and detached with respect to the image forming apparatus.

The image forming system may further include an adjusting member that, if a height of the image forming apparatus is changed, adjusts a height of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle in accordance with the change in the height of the image forming apparatus.

With this configuration, the height of the liquid-accommodation-body accommodating receptacle can be adjusted in accordance with the height of the image forming apparatus.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein like numbers reference like elements.

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an image forming system according to one embodiment.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view illustrating a state of the image forming system that results when an auto document feeder is opened.

FIG. **3** is a perspective view illustrating the inside of the image forming system.

FIG. **4** is a magnified view of essential parts in FIG. **3**.

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of a main receptacle body in a case of an ink supply apparatus of the image forming system.

FIG. **6** is a side view of the main receptacle body when viewed from the left.

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of the inside of a main body case of an ink jet printer of the image forming system when viewed from the right.

FIG. **8** is a schematic cross-sectional view illustrating a connection part between the ink supply apparatus and the ink jet printer in the image forming system.

FIG. **9** is a perspective view of the image forming apparatus of the image forming system when viewed from the left.

FIG. **10** is a perspective view of the main receptacle body when viewed from the left.

FIG. **11** is a magnified view of essential parts in FIG. **10**.

FIG. **12** is a cross-sectional view illustrating a state of a connection between a cap and a connection tube in an ink introduction needle.

FIG. **13** is a perspective view of the cap and the connection tube in the ink introduction needle illustrated in FIG. **12**.

FIG. **14** is a side view of an ink bag on which an ink pulling portion is formed.

FIG. **15** is a perspective view of an ink accommodating body.

FIG. **16** is an exploded perspective view of the ink accommodating body.

FIG. **17** is an exploded perspective view of the ink accommodating body in FIG. **16** when viewed from the opposite direction.

FIG. **18** is a magnified cross-sectional view of essential parts of the ink accommodating body.

FIG. **19** is a magnified perspective view illustrating a state where a first support member and the ink pulling portion are engaged with each other.

FIG. **20** is a magnified cross-sectional view of a state where the ink pulling needle is connected to the ink pulling portion of the ink accommodating body.

FIG. **21** is a magnified side view of essential parts of the ink accommodating body.

FIG. **22** is a perspective partial-fracture view of a state of the inside of the ink supply apparatus when viewed from front.

FIG. **23** is a perspective view of the image forming system in a modification example.

FIG. **24** is a perspective view of a pedestal of the image forming system.

FIG. **25** is a perspective cross-sectional view illustrating a state where the pedestal is installed on the lower surface of a bottom wall formation member of the case.

FIG. **26** is a perspective view of the image forming system in a modification example.

FIG. **27** is a perspective view of the image forming system in a modification example.

FIG. **28** is a side view of the ink pulling tube in a modification example.

FIG. **29** is a side view illustrating a state in which the ink pulling tube in the modification example is covered by a cover member.

FIG. **30** is a schematic front view of the image forming system in the modification example.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

An image forming system according to one embodiment is described below referring to the drawings.

As illustrated in FIG. **1** and FIG. **2**, an image forming system **11** includes an image forming apparatus **14** and an ink supply apparatus **15** as one example of a liquid supply apparatus that supplies ink to an ink jet printer **12**. The image forming apparatus **14** has an ink jet printer **12** as one example of a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects ink (liquid) and a reading apparatus **13** that reads an original copy G (a medium). The reading apparatus **13** is arranged on the ink jet printer **12**.

The reading apparatus **13** has a reading surface **13** *a*, on which the original copy G is read, on top of it, and an operation panel **13***b* that is operated to read to the original copy G. An auto document feeder **16** is arranged on the reading apparatus **13** in such a manner that the reading surface **13** *a* can be opened and closed. The auto document feeder **16** sequentially supplies the multiple original copies G, stacked on top of one another, onto the reading surface **13** *a*, turning upside down one sheet by one sheet.

As illustrated in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**, the ink supply apparatus **15** is arranged to the left of the ink jet printer **12**. That is, the ink supply apparatus **15** is arranged sideways to the left of the ink jet printer **12** (the image forming apparatus **14**) and is arranged side by side with the corresponding ink jet printer **12** in the leftward and rightward direction.

The ink supply apparatus **15** includes multiple ink accommodating bodies **17** (four bodies according the present embodiment) as one example of a liquid accommodating body that accommodates the ink, each being substantially in the shape of a rectangle, and a case **18** as one example of a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates each liquid ink accommodating body **17**. The case **18** includes a main receptacle body **20** and a lid **21**. The main receptacle body **20** in the shape of a rectangular box having a bottom long in the forward and backward direction has an opening portion **19** for accommodating each ink accommodating body **17**, on top of it. The lid **21** freely covers the opening portion **19** in such a manner that the opening portion **19** is freely opened and closed. Any one of the main receptacle body **20** and the lid **21** is configured from a synthetic resin material.

The four ink accommodating bodies **17** are arranged within the main receptacle body **20** side by side in the forward and backward direction. Then, cyan ink, magenta ink, yellow ink, and black ink are accommodated, in this order forward from the rear, in the four ink accommodation bodies **17**, respectively. In this case, the ink accommodating body **17** for black ink with high frequency of use is arranged closest to the front within the main receptacle body **20**.

The case **18** is mounted on the left flank of the ink jet printer **12** (the image forming apparatus **14**) in a freely attachable and detachable manner in such a manner that the upper surface of the corresponding case **18** is equal in height to the reading surface **13***a* in a state where the lid **21** is closed. At this point, throughout the present specification, the expression "matched in terms of height" is defined as including not only the same height, but also a height difference of 2 cm or less. Then, according to the present embodiment, the height of the case **18** is smaller only by 5 mm than that of the reading surface **13***a*.

As illustrated in FIG. **1** and FIG. **3**, the ink jet printer **12** includes a main body case **25** substantially in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped long in the leftward and right direction. A support **26**, which supports a sheet of paper P, as one example of a target described below, is provided in the middle portion within the main body case **25**. A carriage **27**, which can reciprocate in the leftward and rightward direction that is a scanning direction, is provided over the support **26**.

A recording head **28** as one example of a liquid ejecting head is supported within the carriage **27**, in such a manner that the recording head **28** is exposed from the lower surface of the carriage **27**. The recording head **28** faces the support **26**. Then, the recording head **28** ejects ink from multiple nozzles (an illustration thereof is omitted) onto the sheet of paper P that is transported forward from the rear on the support **26**, while the carriage **27** moves in the leftward and rightward direction, and thus performs printing on the sheet of paper P.

Furthermore, under the support **26** within the main body case **25**, a paper sheet cassette **29** that can accommodate the multiple sheets of paper P being stacked on top of one another is installed in the main body case **25** in a freely attachable and detachable manner from an opening portion **30** provided in the lower front middle portion of the main body case **25**. The

sheet of paper P within the paper sheet cassette **29** is fed from the rear on the support **26** by a paper feeding mechanism (an illustration thereof is omitted) while being turned upside down one sheet by one sheet.

Then, the sheets of paper P that are printed on the support **26** are sequentially discharged from a paper discharge opening **31** that is configured in a higher region than the paper sheet cassette **29** in the opening portion **30**. Moreover, a paper discharge tray **32**, which sequentially supports the sheets of paper P that are sequentially discharged from the paper discharge opening **31**, is provided over the paper sheet cassette **29** in a manner that freely extends and extracts the paper discharge tray **32** in the forward and backward direction.

As illustrated in FIG. **3** and FIG. **4**, in a left end portion within the main body case **25**, there are provided a holder case **34** and multiple hollow ink supply needles **35** (four ink supply needles according to the present embodiment). The holder case **34** takes the shape of a rectangular box that has an opening in the front. The multiple hollow ink supply needles **35** are provided, side by side in the leftward and rightward direction, on a bottom wall (a rear wall) within the holder case **34**.

Each ink supply needle **35** extends in the forward and backward direction and passes through a sidewall of the holder case **34**. One end of a flexible ink supply tube **36** is connected to a rear end portion of each ink supply needle **35**, and the other end of the ink supply tube **36** is connected to the recording head **28**. In the ink jet printer **12** according to the present embodiment, cyan ink, magenta ink, yellow ink, and black ink are configured to be supplied in this order rightward from the left to the four ink supply needles **35**, respectively.

Then, in a case where an ink color serves as a reference, the order in which the ink supply needles **35** are arranged side by side rightward from the left in the holder case **34** is the same as the order in which the ink accommodating bodies **17** are arranged side by side forward from the rear within the main receptacle body **20**. Furthermore, each ink accommodating body **17** and each ink supply needle **35** are connected to each other by a flexible connection tube **37** as one example of a passage member that makes up one portion of the ink supply apparatus **15**, in such a manner as to correspond to each color ink that is supplied.

Therefore, each ink that is supplied from each ink accommodating body **17** of the ink supply apparatus **15** through each connection tube **37** to each ink supply needle **35** is supplied to the recording head **28** through each ink supply tube **36**.

Next, a configuration of the case **18** is described in detail.

As illustrated in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**, the lid **21** of the case **18** takes the shape of a rectangular box that has an opening portion **40** to the side of the main receptacle body **20** and that is long in the forward and backward direction and is shallower than the main receptacle body **20**. The lid **21** is connected to the upper portion of the back side of the main receptacle body **20** through the hinge portion **41**. Therefore, in a case of performing an opening or closing operation, the lid **21** rotates with the hinge portion **41** as a fulcrum. That is, the lid **21** is opened from the front of the main receptacle body **20** and is closed to the front of the main receptacle body **20**. Moreover, in the lid **21**, the opening portion **40** fits neatly over the opening portion **19** in a state where the opening portion **19** of the main receptacle body **20** is closed.

As illustrated in FIG. **3** and FIG. **5**, the main receptacle body **20** in the shape of a rectangular box having the bottom includes a right sidewall **45** that is a wall facing the ink jet printer **12**, a left sidewall **46** facing the right sidewall **45**, a rear sidewall **47** and a front sidewall **48** that orthogonally intersect the right sidewall **45** and the left sidewall **46**, and a bottom wall **49** that orthogonally intersects the right sidewall **45**, the left sidewall **46**, the rear sidewall **47**, and the front sidewall **48**.

Then, the opening portion **19** is provided in such a manner as to face the bottom wall **49**. That is, the opening portion **19** faces the bottom wall **49** and is formed higher in the gravity direction than the bottom wall **49**. Then, according to the present embodiment, the right sidewall **45**, the left sidewall **46**, the rear sidewall **47**, and the front sidewall **48** are configured from a first sidewall, a second sidewall, a third sidewall, and a fourth sidewall, respectively. Furthermore, a distance between the right sidewall **45** and the left sidewall **46** in the main receptacle body **20** is smaller than the width of the upper end (one end) of the ink accommodating body **17**.

The main receptacle body **20** includes a bottom wall formation member **50** in the shape of a rectangular box having the bottom, which forms the bottom wall **49**, a right sidewall formation member **51** in the shape of a plate that forms a right half of the sidewall and is curved substantially like a letter U, a left sidewall formation member **52** in the shape of a plate that forms a left half of the sidewall and is curved substantially like a letter U, and an edge member **53**. The bottom of the edge member **53**, which makes up a periphery portion of the opening portion **19**, takes the shape of a rectangular frame that has an opening in the middle.

Then, the main receptacle body **20** is configured from a combination of the right sidewall formation member **51** as one example of a division member and the left sidewall formation member **52** as one example of the division member. That is, the sidewall of the main receptacle body **20** is configured from a combination of the right sidewall formation member **51** and the left sidewall formation member **52**, two division members that result from the division into left and right parts.

The width, in the upward and downward direction, of the left sidewall formation member **52** is somewhat greater than that, in the upward and downward direction, of the right sidewall formation member **51**. However, steps **54** are formed in positions corresponding to contact portions, respectively, between the left sidewall formation member **52** and the right sidewall formation member **51** in the lower end portion of the edge member **53** and the upper end portion of the bottom wall formation member **50**.

Furthermore, the left sidewall formation member **52** is configured from a transparent synthetic resin material. Therefore, the ink accommodating body **17** accommodated within the main receptacle body **20** becomes visible from the outside of the main receptacle body **20** through the left sidewall formation member **52**. Moreover, according to the present embodiment, a visible recognition portion is configured from the left sidewall formation member **52**.

As illustrated in FIG. **3**, and FIG. **5**, right protrusion portions **55** that protrude inward (leftward) are formed on the right internal surface of the edge member **53**, according to the number of the ink accommodation bodies **17**. Moreover, according to the present embodiment, the three right protrusion portions **55** are formed because the number of ink colors is four and the right protrusion portion **55** is not necessary in the ink accommodating bodies **17** that are arranged closest to the rear. The right protrusions **55** are arranged to be spaced equal distances relative to one another in the forward and backward direction. The right protrusion portions **55** fit neatly with shapes of tongue portions **70** to **72** described below, and take substantially the shape of a triangle box with a lid, of which the bottom has an opening. In this case, each right protrusion portion **55** is substantially in the shape of a triangle

when viewed from above, and in two sides of the protruding triangle, the rear side is shorter than the front side.

A right concavity portion **56** as one example of a support portion that supports the ink accommodating body **17** in a support member **92** described below is formed in a chief position on the front side of each right protruding portion **55** on the upper surface of the edge member **53** and in a right rear corner portion. The four right concavity portions **56** are arranged to be spaced equal distances relative to one another in the forward and backward direction and take a shape that fits neatly with the shape of one portion of the support member **92**. A notch concavity portion **56***a* is formed in the middle portion of the bottom surface of the right concavity portion **56**.

Furthermore, a notch portion **57** as one example of an insertion through-portion that extends facing upward from the lower end is formed in the rear surface in each right protrusion portion **55** and in the vicinity of the right front corner portion in the right internal surface of the edge member **53**. The connection tubes **37** in the direction of the ink accommodating bodies **17** can be inserted through the four notch portions **57**, respectively. Moreover, the notch portions **57** are arranged to be spaced equal distances relative to one another in the forward and backward direction.

Left protrusion portions **58** that protrude inward (leftward) are formed on the left internal surface of the edge member **53**, according to the number of the ink accommodation bodies **17**. Moreover, according to the present embodiment, the three left protrusion portions **58** are formed because the number of ink colors is four and the left protrusion portion **58** is not necessary in the ink accommodating bodies **17** that are arranged farthest in the front. Each left protrusion portion **58** is arranged in a position that is shifted somewhat farther to the front than each right protrusion portion **55** in the forward and backward direction. The left protrusion portions **58** are arranged to be spaced equal distances relative to one another in the forward and backward direction. Each left protrusion portion **58** takes substantially the shape of a triangle box with a lid, of which the bottom has an opening. In this case, each left protrusion portion **58** is substantially in the shape of a triangle when viewed from above, and in two sides of the protruding triangle, the rear side is longer than the front side.

A left concavity portion **59** as one example of the support portion that supports the ink accommodating body **17** in the support member **92** described below is formed in a chief position on the rear side of each left protruding portion **58** on the upper surface of the edge member **53** and in a left front corner portion. The four left concavity portions **59** are arranged to be spaced equal distances relative to one another in the forward and backward direction and take a shape that fits neatly with the shape of one portion of the support member **92**. A notch concavity portion **59***a* is formed in the middle portion of the bottom surface of each left concavity portion **59**. Then, the left concavity portion **59** and the right concavity portion **56** face each other in the direction of intersection at an angle of less than 90 degrees (at an angle of 30 degrees according to the present embodiment) with respect to the leftward and rightward direction.

As illustrated in FIG. **6** and FIG. **7**, a receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** as one example of an insertion portion into which each connection tube **37** can be inserted is formed in a near-front position on the upper end portion of the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51**. The right sidewall formation member **51** is attached to a left sidewall **25***a* of the main body case **25** using multiple screws **62** (six screws according to the present embodiment) from the inside of the main receptacle body **20**.

In this case, as illustrated in FIG. **7** and FIG. **8**, the right sidewall formation member **51** is attached to the left sidewall **25***a* of the main body case **25** by tightening together the left sidewall **25***a* and two sheet metal members **63** in the shape of a rectangle that are arranged on the internal surface of the left sidewall **25***a* with spacing being present between the two sheet metal members in the forward and backward direction, using the six screws **62**.

As illustrated in FIG. **9**, a main body case-side insertion through-hole **64** through which each connection tube **37** passes is formed in a position corresponding to the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** on the left sidewall **25***a* of the main body case **25**. Then, as illustrated in FIG. **4** and FIG. **6**, each connection tube **37** of which a downstream end is connected to each the ink supply needle **35** is inserted through the main body case-side insertion through-hole **64** and the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61**, and the upstream end of the connection tube **37** is arranged within the main receptacle body **20**.

As illustrated in FIG. **10** and FIG. **11**, a first tube support portion **65** in the shape of a letter L that supports one connection tube **37** corresponding to black ink, among the connection tubes **37** that are inserted through the receptacle-side insertion through-holes **61**, is provided in a position under and in front of the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** in the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51**, in such a manner that the first tube support portion **65** is adjacent to the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61**. Furthermore, in rear of the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** in the upper end portion of the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51**, four ribs in the shape of a plate that extend in parallel with one another in the forward and backward direction are provided horizontally protrusively facing leftward in such a manner that the four ribs are spaced equal distances relative to one another in the upward and downward direction.

Front ends of the four ribs are all uniform with respect to one another, and the four ribs are defined as a first rib **66**, a second rib **67**, a third rib **68**, and a fourth rib **69** in this order upward from the bottom. The length of the first rib **66** is smaller in the forward and backward direction than that of the second rib **67**, and the length of the second rib **67** is smaller in the forward and backward direction than that of the third rib **68**. Furthermore, the length of the third rib **68** is the same in the forward and backward direction as that of the fourth rib **69**.

A first tongue portion **70**, a second tongue portion **71**, and the third tongue portion **72**, as examples of the support portions in the shape of a plate that protrude horizontally greately facing more inward (leftward) than the ribs **66** to **68**, are integrally provided on the rear ends of the first rib **66**, the second rib **67**, and the third rib **68**, respectively. The first to third tongue portions **70** to **72** suppress dangling of the connection tubes **37**, respectively, by supporting the ends of the connection tubes **37**, each of which face the ink accommodating body **17**. The tongue portions **70** to **72** are arranged in such a manner that they are spaced equal distances relative to one another in the forward and backward direction, and the more backward the tongue portion faces, the greater the width of the tongue portion in the leftward and rightward direction. In this case, the tongue portions **70** to **72** are arranged in such a manner as to correspond to the right protrusion portions **55** (refer to FIG. **5**), respectively, of the edge member **53**. Moreover, the tongue portions **70** to **72** are covered with the right protrusion **55** described above, respectively.

A groove formed between the first rib **66** and the second rib **67** is set to be a second tube support portion **73** that supports

one connection tube **37** corresponding to yellow ink, among the connection tubes **37**. A groove formed between the second rib **67** and the third rib **68** is set to be a third tube support portion **74** that supports one connection tube **37** corresponding to magenta ink, among the connection tubes **37**. A groove formed between the third rib **68** and the fourth rib **69** is set to be a fourth tube support portion **75** that supports one connection tube **37** corresponding to cyan ink, among the connection tubes **37**.

Therefore, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, FIG. **10**, and FIG. **11**, the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** guide the connection tubes **37**, respectively, between the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** and the ink accommodating bodies **17** accommodated within the main receptacle body **20**. That is, the connection tube **37** that passes along the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** goes outside of the main receptacle body **20** through the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61**. Moreover, according to the present embodiment, a guide portion is configured from the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75**.

Furthermore, the lengths of the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** differ from one another according to distances, from the ink accommodating bodies **17** to which the connection tubes **37** guided by the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** are connected, respectively, to the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61**. That is, among the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75**, the fourth tube support portion **75** is the greatest in length, the third tube support portion **74** is the second greatest in length, the second tube support portion **73** is the third greatest in length, and the first tube support portion **65** is the smallest in length.

A pair of upper and lower protrusions **76** as one example of a falling-off suppression portion for suppressing falling off of the connection tube **37**, which is pulled into place within the third tube support portion **74** and thus supported, from the third tube support portion **74**, is provided in one portion, in the length direction, of the third tube support portion **74**.

Furthermore, a pair of upper and lower protrusions **76** for suppressing falling-off of the connection tube **37**, which is pulled into place within the fourth tube support portion **75** and thus supported, from the fourth tube support portion **75**, is provided in one portion, in the length direction, of the fourth tube support portion **75**. Then, each pair of upper and lower protrusions **76** bites into the connection tube **37** that is pulled into place by the third tube support portion **74** and the fourth tube support portion **75**. Each protrusion **76** is formed substantially in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped with the same width in the inward direction (the leftward and rightward direction) as that of each of the ribs **66** to **69**.

A pair of through holes **77** as one example of an additional support portion is formed between the first tongue portion **70** and the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** in the forward and backward direction of the upper end portion of the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51**, in such a manner as to interpose the first to fourth ribs **66** to **69** in the upward and downward direction. A pair of through holes **77** is formed between the first tongue portion **70** and the second tongue portion **71** in the forward and backward direction of the upper end portion of the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51**, in such a manner as to interpose the second to fourth ribs **67** to **69** in the upward and downward direction.

A pair of through holes **77** is formed between the second tongue portion **71** and the third tongue portion **72** in the forward and backward direction of the upper end portion of the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51**, in such a manner as to interpose the third to fourth ribs **68** to **69** in the upward and downward direction. Then, in a state where the connection tube **37** is pulled into place within each of the second to fourth tube support portions **73** to **75**, the connection tube **37** is reliably retained within each of the second to fourth tube support portions **73** to **75** by making wiring **78** pass through each pair of through holes **77** and connecting the end portions of the corresponding wiring **78** in the shape of a ring. Therefore, each pair of through holes **77** is complementary in a case where the connection tube **37** falling-off from within the second to fourth tube support portions **73** to **75** is retained by the wire **78**.

As illustrated in FIG. **5**, FIG. **10**, and FIG. **11**, the first to fourth ribs **66** to **69** (the second to fourth tube support portions **73** to **75**), the first to third tongue portions **70** to **72**, the first tube support portion **65**, and the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** are covered with the edge member **53**. The connection tubes **37** supported by the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** are inserted through the four notch portions **57**, respectively. Then, the upstream end portion of each connection tube **37** is in a state where it is arranged, from each the notch portions **57**, within the main receptacle body **20**.

As illustrated FIG. **12** and FIG. **13**, a base end portion **80***b* of a hollow ink introduction needle **80**, as one example of a liquid introduction portion that has an introduction hole **80***a* in the pointed end portion thereof, is connected to the upstream end of each connection tube **37**. That is, the base end portion **80***b* of the ink introduction needle **80** is insertion-fitted into the upstream end portion of each connection tube **37**. Then, the part of each connection tube **37**, into which the base end portion **80***b* of the ink introduction needle **80** is insertion-fitted, is tightened by a torsion spring **81** that suppresses the slipping of the ink introduction needle **80** out of each connection tube **37**.

An ink circulation adjusting member **82** is attached to a somewhat more downstream position of each connection tube **37** than the torsion spring **81**. The ink circulation adjusting member **82** can be switched between a mode in which the circulation of ink within each connection tube **37** is regulated by squeezing each connection tube **37** and a mode in which the circulation of ink within each connection tube **37** is allowed without squeezing each connection tube **37**.

Furthermore, the ink introduction needle **80** has a flange portion **83** in the shape of a circle in the middle portion thereof. A needle positioning portion **84** in the shape of a cylinder that is somewhat smaller in diameter than the flange portion **83** is provided on the surface of the flange portion **83**, which faces the introduction hole **80***a*. Multiple positioning protrusions **84***a* (four positioning protrusions **84***a* according to the present embodiment) are provided on the outer periphery surface of the needle positioning portion **84**, in such a manner that the multiple positioning protrusions **84***a* are spaced equal distances relative to one another.

The pointed end of each positioning protrusion **84***a* is positioned more inward than the periphery of the flange portion **83**. Then, a ring groove **86** in the shape of a circle, into which an E ring **85** can be installed, is formed on a position on the outer periphery surface of the ink introduction needle **80**, which is somewhat closer to the base end than the flange portion **83**.

Furthermore, a cap **87** in the shape of a circular box with a lid, of which one side has an opening, in such a manner as to accommodate the region of the ink introduction needle **80**, from the flange portion **83** to the pointed end, is attached to the ink introduction needle **80**. That is, a cap-insertion through-hole **88**, through which the base end of the ink introduction

needle **80** can be inserted from within the cap **87** rather than the flange portion **83**, is formed in the central portion of the bottom wall of the cap **87**. A thread groove **89** is formed in the inner periphery surface of the cap **87**.

Then, the cap **87** is mounted to the ink introduction needle **80** by installing the E ring **85** into the ring groove **86** in the ink introduction needle **80** in a state where the base end of the ink introduction needle **80** rather than the flange portion **83** is inserted, from the inside of the cap **87**, through the cap-insertion through-hole **88** in the cap **87**. At this time, backlash of the ink introduction needle **80** and the cap **87** is suppressed because the bottom wall of the cap **87** is interposed between the flange portion **83** and the E ring **85** with somewhat room in between. Furthermore, at this time, the pointed end of the ink introduction needle **80** is held in place within the cap **87**.

Next, a configuration of an ink accommodating body is described in detail.

As illustrated in FIG. **14** and FIG. **15**, each ink accommodating body **17** includes an ink bag **90** as one example of a liquid accommodation portion that accommodates ink, and an ink pulling portion **91** as one example of a liquid pulling portion that is formed on the upper end portion of the ink bag **90** in such a manner as to communicate with the inside of the ink bag **90**. The ink pulling portion **91** is positioned over the ink bag **90** in the gravity direction. Furthermore, a support member (a cover member) **92**, which makes up a liquid accommodating body support portion supported by the main receptacle body **20** (refer to FIG. **5**), is attached to the upper end (one end) of the ink bag **90**, on which the ink pulling portion **91** is formed. That is, the ink bag **90** is engaged with the support member **92**.

In a state where the ink pulling portion **91** in the shape of a cylinder is interposed between peripheries of two flexible films **90***a* in the shape of a rectangle, the ink bag **90** is formed by welding the peripheries of the two flexible films. That is, the ink bag **90** is a bag body that is configured from the flexible films **90***a* that are two opposing flexible walls, and is formed in such a manner that as the ink accommodated within the ink bag **90** is consumed, the two flexible films **90***a* become closer to each other. Moreover, according to the present embodiment, a flexible portion is configured from the two flexible films **90***a* that make up the ink bag **90**.

Furthermore, the ink pulling portion **91** is arranged in the middle portion, in the width direction, of the upper end portion of the ink bag **90**. The upper end portion of the ink pulling portion **91** is exposed from the ink bag **90**, and the lower end portion thereof is arranged within the ink bag **90**. A pulling flange portion **93** that takes substantially the shape of a square with corner portions rounded is provided in a somewhat lower position than the upper end portion of the part, exposed from the ink bag **90**, of the ink pulling portion **91**.

Flange concavity portions **93***a* are formed in a pair on both lateral edge portions, respectively, of the pulling flange portion **93** that are opposite to each other in the thickness direction of the ink bag **90**. An ink bag through-hole **94** is provided on each of the both end portions, in the width direction, of a welded part of the upper end portion of the ink bag **90**, in which ink is not accommodated.

As illustrated in FIG. **14** and FIG. **18**, the ink pulling portion **91** includes a packing **95** in the shape of a circular, a valve body **96**, and a coil spring **97** inside it. The packing **95** forms an ink pulling mouth **95***a* that pulls ink. The valve body **96** comes into contact with the packing **95** in such a manner to close the ink pulling mouth **95***a* from the inside. The coil spring **97** applies an actuation force to the valve body **96** from the inside to the packing **95**. The upper end (one end) of an ink pulling tube **99**, as one example of a passage formation member that forms a passage **99***a* through a flexible connection passage member **98** that takes the shape of a cylinder, is connected to the lower end portion of the ink pulling portion **91** within the ink bag **90**. The connection passage member **98**, for example, is configured from an elastomer or the like.

The lower end (the other end) of the ink pulling tube **99** extends up to the lower portion of the ink bag **90** within the ink bag **90**. That is, the lower end of the ink pulling tube **99** extends in the direction opposite to the direction in which the ink pulling portion **91** is formed, within the ink bag **90**. Therefore, the passage **99***a* within the ink pulling tube **99** extends up to the lower portion of the ink bag **90** in the gravity direction within the ink bag **90**.

In this case, the length of the ink pulling tube **99** is set to be such a length that the lower end of the ink pulling tube **99** does not come into contact with the lower end of the ink bag **90** within the ink bag **90** in a state where the ink bag **90** is filled with ink. Then, the ink pulling tube **99** is configured from a material that is greater in specific gravity than the ink with which the ink bag **90** is filled. According to the present embodiment, the ink pulling tube **99** is configured from ink-resistant fluororesin.

The fluororesin is selected, for example, from among PFA (tetrafluoro ethylene perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer with a specific gravity of 2.12 to 2.17), PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene (4 fluoridation) with a specific gravity of 2.14 to 2.20), FEP (tetrafluoro ethylene hexafluoropropylene copolymer (4.6 fluoridation) with a specific gravity of 2.12 to 2.17), ETFE (tetrafluoro ethylene ethylenic copolymer with a specific gravity of 1.70 to 1.76), PCTFE (polychloro-trifluoroethylene (3 fluoridation) with a specific gravity of 2.10 to 2.20), PVDF (poly vinylidene fluoride (2 fluoridation) with a specific gravity of 1.75 to 1.78), and the like.

Because ink, when it is water-based ink, is approximately 1 in specific gravity, if the ink pulling tube **99** is configured as described above, the floating of the ink pulling tube **99** is prevented in the ink within the ink bag **90**. Because the ink in the vicinity of the bottom portion of the ink bag **90** within the ink bag **90** is accordingly smoothly pulled, the ink remaining within the ink bag **90** is reduced.

Furthermore, a communication hole **100**, which communicates with the inside of the ink pulling portion **91** and the inside of the ink bag **90**, is formed in the part of the ink pulling portion **91**, which extends to within the ink bag **90**. Then, an inclination portion **101**, as one example of a guide portion that is inclined in such a manner as to ascend toward the communication hole **100**, is formed in both end portions, in the width direction, of the upper end portion of the inside of the ink bag **90**.

The communication hole **100** is formed in such a manner that the hole diameter of the communication hole **100** is smaller than the entrance diameter of an ink entrance in the lower end (in the direction opposite to the ink pulling portion **91**) of the ink pulling tube **99**. In a case where ink is the pigment ink, there occurs a problem in that pigment precipitates to the bottom portion of the ink bag **90** within the ink bag **90** and thus a difference in concentration occurs between the previously-supplied ink and the later-supplied ink. However, with the configuration described above, the ink in the upper portion of the ink bag **90**, which is low in concentration, is introduced from the communication hole **100** and the ink in the lower portion of the ink bag **90**, which is high in concentration, is introduced from the ink pulling tube **99**. As a result, there is an effect in which the high-concentration ink and the low-concentration ink are mixed and thus the ink with moderate concentrations are delivered to the ink pulling portion **91**.

As illustrated in FIG. **16** and FIG. **17**, the support member **92** of each ink accommodating body **17** includes a first support member **105** and a second support member **106** that are attached to each other in such a manner that the upper end portion of the ink bag **90** is interposed therebetween. The first support member **105** includes a top plate portion **107** that takes substantially the shape of a rectangle that extends in the width direction of the ink bag **90**, and a lateral plate portion **108** that is provided on the middle portion, in the transverse direction, of the lower surface of the top plate portion **107**, vertically and integrally, in such a manner as to extend along the longitudinal direction.

As illustrated in FIG. **16** and FIG. **20**, both end portions of the top plate portion **107** of the first support member **105** takes substantially the shape of an arc, and a pulling-portion insertion portion **109** in the shape of a cylinder is formed on the middle portion, in the longitudinal direction, of the top plate portion **107**, in such a manner that the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** into which the ink pulling portion **91** is inserted is formed passes through the middle portion. A thread ridge **110** that can cooperate with the thread groove **89** of the cap **87** for screwing is formed in the outer periphery surface of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**. Therefore, the cap **87** can be screwed onto the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**.

The outer diameter of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** is almost the same as that of the flange portion **83** of the ink introduction needle **80**. The inner diameter of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** is greater than the outer diameter of the needle positioning portion **84** of the ink introduction needle **80**. The inner diameter of the needle positioning portion **84** is somewhat greater than the outer diameter of the upper end portion of the ink pulling portion **91**.

As illustrated in FIG. **18** and FIG. **19**, a semi-arc surface **111** that runs along one portion of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** is formed in the part of the lateral plate portion **108** of the first support member **105**, which corresponds to the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**. An insertion-fitting hole **112**, into which the pulling flange portion **93** of the ink pulling portion **91** can be insertion-fitted, in the end portion of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**, which faces the semi-arc surface **111**. The insertion-fitting hole **112** takes substantially the shape of a square of which the corner portions are rounded in such a manner as to correspond to the pulling flange portion **93**.

A convexity rim **113**, which extends in the upward and downward direction, is formed in the part from the middle portion of the semi-arc surface **111** to the insertion-fitting hole **112**. A level-difference portion **114**, which is engaged with the pulling flange portion **93** of the ink pulling portion **91** in the upward and downward direction, is formed in the upper end portion of the insertion-fitting hole **112**. Then, in a case where the ink pulling portion **91** is inserted into the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**, the pulling flange portion **93** is insertion-fitted into the insertion-fitting hole **112**, and the convexity rim **113** is fitted into the flange concavity portion **93***a* of the pulling flange portion **93**, thereby performing the positioning of the ink pulling portion **91**.

As illustrated in FIG. **16** and FIG. **17**, positioning holes **120** are provided in both sides of the lateral plate portion **108**, respectively, of the first support member **105**. The both sides interpose the semi-arc surface **111** therebetween. Furthermore, screw holes **121** are formed in both sides of the lateral plate portion **108**, which interposes the positioning hole **120** therebetween. A protrusion piece portion **122** in the shape of a plate, which is formed to be integrally combined with the lateral plate portion **108**, is provided on the lower surfaces of both end portions of the top plate portion **107** of the first support member **105**. Furthermore, convexity portions **123** in the shape of a cylinder, which are inserted through both of the ink bag through-holes **94** of the ink bag **90**, are protrusively provided in both end portions, respectively, of the surface of the lateral plate portion **108**. The surface faces the semi-arc surface **111**.

The second support member **106** includes a vertical portion **124** in the shape of rectangular plate and a vertical portion **125** in the shape of a rectangular plate. The vertical portion **124** takes substantially the shape of a letter L, extends along the width direction of the ink bag **90**, and faces the lower surface of the top plate portion **107** of the first support member **105**. The vertical portion **125** faces the lateral plate portion **108** of the first support member **105**.

A support concavity portion **126** is provided in a position on the second support member **106**, which corresponds to the semi-arc surface **111** of the lateral plate portion **108** of the first support member **105**. The part of the ink pulling portion **91** (the part that faces the ink bag **90** rather than the pulling flange portion **93**, in a part of the ink pulling portion **91**, which is exposed from the ink bag **90**), which is immediately under the pulling flange portion **93**, is inserted into the support concavity portion **126**. The support concavity portion **126** is smaller in width than the pulling flange portion **93** of the ink pulling portion **91**.

Positioning protrusions **127**, which are inserted into both of positioning holes **120**, respectively, are protrusively provided in positions on the vertical portion **125** of the second support member **106**, which correspond to both of the positioning holes **120**, respectively, of the first support member **105**. Screw-insertion through-holes **129** are formed in positions on the vertical portion **125** of the second support member **106**, which correspond to both of the screw holes **121**, respectively, in the first support member **105**. Screws **128**, which are screwed into both of the screw holes **121**, respectively, are inserted through the screw-insertion through-holes **129**, respectively.

Engagement notch concavity portions **130**, which are engaged with both of the convexity portions **123** that are inserted through both of the ink bag through-holes **94**, respectively, are formed in positions on the vertical portion **125** of the second support member **106**, which correspond to both of the convexity portions **123**, respectively, of the first support member **105**.

Next, operation that is performed when the support member **92** is attached to the ink bag **90** to which the ink pulling portion **91** is fixed is described.

Then, as illustrated in FIG. **16** and FIG. **17**, in a case where the support member **92** is attached to the ink bag **90** to which the ink pulling portion **91** is fixed, first, the ink pulling portion **91** is inserted into the support concavity portion **126** of the second support member **106**. Subsequently, both of the convexity portions **123** of the first support member **105** are inserted through both of the ink bag through-holes **94** in the ink bag **90**, respectively. Subsequently, both of the positioning protrusions **127** of the second support member **106** are inserted into both of the positioning holes **120** in the first support member **105**, respectively. Accordingly, the positioning of the first support member **105** and the second support member **106** is performed.

Subsequently, both of the screws **128** are inserted into both of the screw-insertion through-holes **129** in the second support member **106** and are then screwed into both of the screw holes **121** in the first support member **105**. Accordingly, the support member **92** is attached to the ink bag **90** to which the ink pulling portion **91** is fixed. At this time, in the upward and

downward direction, the support member **92** engages the pulling flange portion **93** of the ink pulling portion **91** and engages the ink bag through-holes **94** in both of the sides of the ink bag **90**, which interpose the ink pulling portion **91** therebetween. That is, the support member **92** supports the ink pulling portion **91** and supports the ink bag **90** with both of the sides of the ink bag **90**, which interpose the ink pulling portion **91** therebetween.

Furthermore, at this time, as illustrated in FIG. **21**, the upper portion of the ink bag **90** is arranged between a space formed between the lateral plate portion **108** of the first support member **105** and a vertical portion **125** of the second support member **106**. Because of this, even though the ink bag **90** is deformed due to consumption of ink within the ink bag **90**, the lateral plate portion **108** and the vertical portion **125** do not prevent the corresponding deformation.

Next, operation that is performed when each ink accommodating body **17** of which the inside is filled with ink is set up in the case **18** is described.

Then, as illustrated in FIG. **3** and FIG. **22**, in a case where each ink accommodating body **17** is set up in the case **18**, first, the lid **21** is opened and the ink accommodating body **17** is accommodated within the main receptacle body **20** through the opening portion **19** in the main receptacle body **20**. At this time, both of the end portions of the first support member **105** of each ink accommodating body **17** are supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** that face each other in the direction of intersection at an angle of 30 degrees inclined with respect to the leftward and rightward direction.

When this is done, both of the protrusion piece portions **122** (refer to FIG. **16**) of the first support member **105** are inserted into the notch concavity portion **56***a* (refer to FIG. **5**) and the notch concavity portion **59***a* (refer to FIG. **5**), respectively. Accordingly, the ink accommodating bodies **17** are accommodated side by side with one another in the forward and backward direction in a state where the ink accommodating bodies **17** are supported by the main receptacle body **20** attachably and detachably in such a manner as to intersect each other at an angle of 30 degrees inclined with respect to the leftward and rightward direction. In this case, each ink accommodating body **17** remains suspended by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** of the main receptacle body **20** in the support member **92** that is positioned to the upper end (one end) of each ink accommodating body **17**.

Because of this, each ink accommodating body **17** remains suspended from the internal bottom surface of the main receptacle body **20**. Then, in a state where each ink accommodating body **17** is suspended in the main receptacle body **20**, the support member **92** supports the pulling flange portion **93** of the ink pulling portion **91** (refer to FIG. **16**) and supports the ink bag **90** using the ink bag through-holes **94** in both of the sides of the ink bag **90**, which interpose the ink pulling portion **91**, fixed to the ink bag **90**, therebetween.

Furthermore, for each ink accommodating body **17**, the smaller the thickness of the ink bag **90** becomes due to consumption of the ink within the ink bag **90**, the farther the lower end of the ink bag **90** goes down (this is indicated by a two-dot chain line in FIG. **22**), but even though the ink is not present within the ink bag **90**, the state where each ink accommodating body **17** is suspended from the internal bottom surface of the main receptacle body **20** is maintained.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. **12**, FIG. **18**, and FIG. **20**, the ink introduction needle **80**, as described above, is connected to the ink pulling portion **91** of each ink accommodating body **17** that is accommodated in the main receptacle body **20**. That is, in a case where the ink introduction needle **80** is connected to the ink pulling portion **91**, the cap **87** that is attached to the ink introduction needle **80** to which the upstream of each connection tube **37** is connected is put on top of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** of each ink accommodating body **17**.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. **20**, the cap **87** is rotated and thus the thread groove **89** in the cap **87** is screwed onto the thread ridge **110** of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**. As the screwing progress, the ink introduction needle **80** is inserted, from the ink pulling mouth **95***a*, into the inside of the ink pulling portion **91**. Then, when the cap **87** is further rotated and thus the cap **87** is completely screwed onto the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** to the end, the ink introduction needle **80** resists an actuation force of the coil spring **97** and thus pushes down the valve body **96** in such a manner as to separate the valve body **96** from the packing **95**.

When this is done, the valve body **96** is moved to a valve opening position that is away from the packing **95**, and thus the inside of the ink bag **90** and the inside of the ink introduction needle **80** communicate with each other. Therefore, the inside of the ink bag **90** communicates with the inside of the connection tube **37** through the inside of the ink pulling portion **91** and the inside of the ink introduction needle **80**. At this time, the needle positioning portion **84** of the ink introduction needle **80** is inserted into the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**, and each positioning protrusion **84***a* suitably comes into contact with the inner periphery surface of the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**. Thus, the positioning is done on the ink introduction needle **80**, and the position thereof is set to be the central position of the ink pulling portion **91**.

Then, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, the cap **87** is screwed into the pulling-portion insertion portion **109**, and then the lid **21** is closed, thereby completing an operation of setting up each ink accommodating body **17** in the case **18**. When each ink accommodating body **17** is set up in the case **18**, the ink in the ink accommodating body **17** is supplied from each connection tube **37** through each ink supply needle **35** and each ink supply tube **36** to the recording head **28**. Each ink supplied to the recording head **28** is ejected from each nozzle (an illustration thereof is omitted) of the recording head **28** onto a sheet of paper P and thus the printing is performed.

Then, when the ink of each ink accommodating body **17** is consumed due to the printing of the sheet of paper P, as the ink is consumed, the ink bag **90** of each ink accommodating body **17** is gradually shriveled. At this time, because the left sidewall formation member **52** is transparent that makes up the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18**, even though the lid **21** is closed, a shriveled state (a displacement state) of the ink bag **90** of each ink accommodating body **17** within the case **18** can be visually recognized from the outside of the case **18** through the left sidewall formation member **52**.

In this case, particularly, the left sidewall formation member **52** occupies not only most of the left lateral surface of the main receptacle body **20**, but also most of the left half of the front surface and most of the left half of the rear surface of the main receptacle body **20**. In addition, the ink accommodating bodies **17** are arranged side by side with one another in the forward and backward direction in such a manner that the ink accommodating bodies **17** are in parallel with one another in a state where each ink accommodating body **17** is inclined in such a manner that the left side is positioned closer to the front than the right side within the case **18**.

Therefore, the shriveled state of the ink bag **90** of all the ink accommodating bodies **17** within the case **18** from the outside of the case **18** can be visually recognized from the front of the

case **18**. Because of this, the replacement time for each ink accommodating body can be recognized from the shriveled state of the ink bag **90** of each ink accommodating body **17**.

Furthermore, the lower end of the ink pulling tube **99** within the ink bag **90** of the ink accommodating body **17** extends up to the lower portion of the ink bag **90** in the gravity direction within the ink bag **90**. Because of this, the ink within the ink bag **90** is drawn up from the lower end portion of the ink bag **90** through the ink pulling tube **99** and then is consumed.

In this case, since the ink pulling tube **99** is configured from a material that is greater in specific gravity than the ink within the ink bag **90**, the floating of the ink pulling tube **99** does not occur within the ink bag **90**. Because of this, since the position of the lower end of the ink pulling tube **99** is maintained in the lower portion of the ink bag **90** in the gravity direction within the ink bag **90**, the ink remaining within the ink bag **90** after use can be reduced.

Furthermore, an operation in a case of replacing the ink accommodating body **17** within which the ink is not present is performed after the ink circulation adjusting member **82** (refer to FIG. **13**) that is attached to the connection tube **37** corresponding to the replacement-desired ink accommodating body **17** is set to the mode in which the corresponding connection tube **37** is squeezed and thus the circulation of the ink is within the corresponding connection tube **37** is regulated. By doing this, the suspending and falling of the ink from the introduction hole **80***a* in the ink introduction needle **80** is suppressed when the cap **87** is removed from the pulling-portion insertion portion **109** of the ink accommodating body **17** and thus the ink introduction needle **80** is pulled out of the ink pulling portion **91**.

Next, an operation in a case where the original copy G larger in size than the reading surface **13***a* is read by the reading apparatus **13** of the image forming system **11** is described.

Then, as illustrated in FIG. **2**, in the case where the original copy G larger in size than the reading surface **13***a* is read by the reading apparatus **13**, first, the auto document feeder **16** is opened and thus the reading surface **13***a* is exposed. Subsequently, the original copy G is placed in such a manner that a reading-desired region of the original copy G is held in place on the reading surface **13***a* and that one portion of the part, which protrudes from over the reading surface **13***a*, of the corresponding original copy G is positioned on the case **18** (on the lid **21**).

At this time, the case **18** is matched with the reading surface **13***a* in terms of height. That is, the height of the case **18** is smaller only by 5 mm than that of the reading surface **13***a*. Because of this, one portion of the original copy G is supported on the case **18**, without being get stuck in the lateral side of the case **18**. Then, when the reading apparatus **13** is operated in a state where the auto document feeder **16** is closed, the region of the original copy G, which is held in place on the reading surface **13***a*, is read.

In this manner, because one portion of the original copy G, which protrudes from the reading surface **13***a* is supported by the case **18**, the position of the original copy G is stabilized, and the original copy G can be accurately read by the reading apparatus **13**.

According to the embodiments described above, the following effects can be obtained.

(1) In the ink supply apparatus **15**, the ink accommodating body **17** is detachably and attachably supported with respect to the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18**, in such a manner that the ink pulling portion **91** is positioned higher in the gravity direction than the ink bag **90**. Because of this, the ink pulling portion **91** and the ink introduction needle **80** can be reliably connected to each other while they are visually checked. Furthermore, normally, because the ink gathers by its own weight in the lower portion of the bag **90**, if the ink pulling portion **91** is present in the lower portion of the ink bag **90**, there is a concern that an amount of ink leakage will be increased when a defective connection occurs between the ink pulling portion **91** and the ink introduction needle **80**. In this respect, since with this configuration, the ink pulling portion **91** is positioned higher in the gravity direction than the ink bag **90**, even though the defective connection is present between the ink pulling portion **91** and the ink introduction needle **80**, the amount of ink leakage can be suppressed.

(2) The ink bag **90** is a bag body that is configured from the two opposing flexible films **90***a*, and is formed in such a manner that as the ink accommodated within the ink bag **90** is consumed, the two flexible films **90***a* become closer to each other. Because of this, the displacement state of the flexible film **90***a* due to the consumption of the ink within the ink bag **90** is visually recognized and thus the consumption state of the ink within the ink bag **90** can be easily recognized.

(3) The case **18** has the bottom wall **49**, the opening portion **19** that faces the bottom wall **49** and is formed more upward in the gravity direction than the bottom wall **49**, and the lid **21** that covers the opening portion **19** in such a manner as to open and close the opening portion **19** freely. The ink accommodating body **17** is accommodated within the case **18** through the opening portion **19** in such a manner that the ink accommodating body can be attached and detached. With this configuration, since the ink accommodating body **17** is attached to and detached from the case **18** through the opening portion **19** that is formed over the case **18** in the gravity direction, an operation of attaching and detaching the ink accommodating body **17** to and from the case **18** can be easily performed. In addition, because the ink accommodating body **17** is accommodated within the case **18** and then the opening portion **19** is covered with the lid **21**, damage to the ink accommodating body **17** or the connection tube **37** and slippage between the ink pulling portion **91** and the ink introduction needle **80** due to an erroneous connection therebetween can be suppressed. Because of this, defects in ink supply or contamination due to the ink can be suppressed. Furthermore, because operations of connecting and disconnecting the ink pulling portion **91** and the ink introduction needle **80** are performed on the case **18** that has the bottom wall **49**, even though the ink is suspended, the ink suspended can be caught within the case **18**. Because of this, contamination of the outside of the case **18** can be suppressed.

(4) The case **18** has the transparent left sidewall formation member **52** through which the shriveled state of the ink bag **90** due to the consumption of the ink within the ink accommodating body **17** can be visually recognized. Because of this, the shriveled state of the ink bag **90** of the ink accommodating body **17** within the case **18** can be visually recognized from the outside of the case **18**. That is, the consumption state of the ink within the ink accommodating body **17** within the case **18** can be visually recognized from the outside of the case **18**.

(5) A distance between the right sidewall **45** and the left sidewall **46** of the case **18** is smaller than the width of the ink accommodating body **17**. Because of this, the accommodation of each ink accommodating body **17** within the case **18** in an inclined manner contributes to the miniaturization of the case **18**.

(6) The ink pulling portion **91** of the ink accommodating body **17** is formed on the upper end of the ink bag **90**. The ink accommodating body **17** includes the support member **92**,

engaged with the corresponding upper end, on the upper end on which the ink pulling portion **91** is formed, and is supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18** through the support member **92**. With this configuration, because the upper end on which the ink pulling portion **91** is formed is supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18**, a connection between and the ink pulling portion **91** and the ink introduction needle **80** can be easily performed in the ink accommodating body **17**. Furthermore, because the ink accommodating body **17** includes the support member **92** and thus the ink accommodating body **17** can be handled with the support member **92** being held in a firm grip, the attaching and detaching operation on the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18** of the ink accommodating body **17** can be performed.

(7) The upper end on which the ink pulling portion **91** is formed is supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18**, and thus the ink accommodating body **17** is suspended. With this configuration, because the ink accommodating body **17** is suspended and thus the ink gathers by its own weight in the lower portion of the accommodating body **17**, tension is applied to the ink bag **90**. For this reason, the ink can be stably supplied to the ink jet printer **12** because the ink bag **90** extends neatly in a state where wrinkle and distortion of the ink bag **90** due to the consumption of the ink within the ink bag **90** are not present. Furthermore, according to the present embodiment, because the ink jet printer **12** is a type of printer in which the carriage **27** equipped with the recording head **28** moves, vibration of the ink jet printer **12** propagates to the ink accommodating body **17** and thus the lower portion of the ink accommodating body **17** shakes. Furthermore, because the support member **92** facing the upper end of the ink accommodating body **17** is arranged in the direction that intersects the moving direction (a main scanning direction) of the carriage **27** when viewed from above, the movement of the carriage **27** makes it easier for the vibration to propagate to the ink accommodating body **17** than when the support member **92** is arranged in the direction parallel with the main scanning direction. Because of this, in a case where the ink within the ink bag **90** is a pigment ink that includes pigment that precipitates easily in ink, the pigment ink can be agitated by the shaking of the lower portion of the ink accommodating body **17**. Therefore, differences in the concentration of pigment in the pigment ink can be suppressed.

(8) The support member **92** of the ink accommodating body **17** supports the ink pulling portion **91** in the ink accommodating body **17**. For this reason, the ink can be stably supplied to the ink jet printer **12** because the ink bag **90** extends neatly in a state where wrinkle and distortion of the ink bag **90** due to the consumption of the ink within the ink bag **90** of the ink accommodating body **17** are not present.

(9) The support member **92** of the ink accommodating body **17** supports the ink bag **90** with both sides thereof that interpose the ink pulling portion **91** therebetween. Because of this, the ink bag **90** can be stably supported by the support member **92** with the balance being well established.

(10) The ink accommodating body **17** has the passage **99***a* that communicates with the ink pulling portion **91** and extends the lower portion, in the gravity direction, of the ink bag **90**. With this configuration, even though the ink pulling portion **91** is positioned over the ink bag **90**, because the ink can be sucked up from the lower portion within the ink bag **90** through the passage **99***a*, the ink within the ink bag **90** can be stably supplied to the ink jet printer **12**.

(11) The ink pulling tube **99** of the ink accommodating body **17** is configured from a material that is higher in specific gravity than the ink accommodated in the ink bag **90**. Because of this, the floating of the ink pulling tube **99** in the ink within the ink bag **90** can be suppressed. Therefore, because the ink positioned in the lower end opposite to the ink pulling portion **91** within the ink bag **90** is guided smoothly to the ink pulling portion **91** by the ink pulling tube **99**, the ink staying behind within the ink bag **90** can be reduced.

(12) The ink pulling portion **91** of the ink accommodating body **17** has the communication hole **100** communicating with the inside of the ink bag **90** in the part thereof that extends into the ink bag **90**. With this configuration, when the ink is ejected, from the ink pulling portion **91** positioned vertically over the ink bag **90**, into the ink bag **90**, bubbles mixed with the ink within the ink bag **90** can be discharged from the communication hole **100** in the ink pulling portion **91** to the outside of the ink accommodating body **17**.

(13) The inclination portion **101**, which is inclined in such a manner as to ascend toward the communication hole **100**, is formed to the side of the ink pulling portion **91** within the ink bag **90** of the ink accommodating body **17**. Because of this, when the ink is ejected, from the ink pulling portion **91** positioned vertically over the ink bag **90**, into the ink bag **90**, the bubbles mixed with the ink within the ink bag **90** can be guided to the communication hole **100** by the inclination portion **101**. As a result, the bubbles mixed with the ink within the ink bag **90** can be smoothly discharged from the communication hole **100** to the outside of the ink accommodating body **17**.

(14) The ink pulling tube **99** of the ink accommodating body **17** is connected to the ink pulling portion **91** through the flexible connection passage member **98**. Because of this, the ink pulling tube **99** can be easily connected to the ink pulling portion **91** by the connection passage member **98**.

(15) The first to fourth tube support portions **65** and **73** to **75**, which guide each connection tube **37** that is connected to each ink accommodating body **17** that is accommodated within the main receptacle body **20**, are provided on the internal surface of the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18**. For this reason, the connection tube **37** can be easily pulled into place within the main receptacle body **20** because each connection tube **37** can be guided within the main receptacle body **20** by the first to fourth support portions **65**, and **73** to **75**.

(16) The receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61**, into which each connection tube **37** can be inserted, is formed in the internal surface of the right sidewall formation member **51** of the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18**. The first to fourth support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** guide the connection tubes **37**, respectively, between the receptacle-side insertion hole **61** and the ink accommodating bodies **17** accommodated within the main receptacle body **20**. Because of this, the connection tubes **37**, which are inserted from the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61** into the main receptacle body **20**, can be guided by the first to fourth tube support portions **65** and **73** to **75** to the ink accommodation bodies **17**, respectively, that are accommodated within the main receptacle body **20**.

(17) The lengths of the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** in the case **18** differ from one another according to the distances, from the ink accommodating bodies **17** to which the connection tubes **37** guided by the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** are connected, respectively, to the receptacle-side insertion through-hole **61**. Because of this, the connection of the connection tube **37** to the wrong ink accommodating body **17** can be suppressed.

(18) The main receptacle body **20** of the case **18** includes the edge member **53** that makes up the periphery portion of the opening portion **19** for accommodating each ink accommodating body **17**. The edge member **53** covers the first to fourth support portions **65** and **73** and **75**. Because of this, the connection tubes **37** guided by the first to fourth tube support portions **65** and **73** to **75**, respectively, can be protected by the edge member **53**.

(19) The notch portion **57** into which each connection tube **37** can be inserted is provided in the edge member **53** of the case **18**. Because of this, each connection tube **37** is inserted through the notch portion **57**, and thus each connection tube **37** can be easily connected to each ink accommodating body **17**.

(20) The edge member **53** of the case **18** includes the right concavity portions **56** and the left concavity portions **59**. Each right concavity portion **56** and each left concavity portion **59** support each ink accommodating body **17**. Because of this, each ink accommodating body **17** can be supported by each right concavity portion **56** and each left concavity portion **59**.

(21) Each protrusion **76** for suppressing the falling-off of each connection tube **37** from the third and fourth tube support portions **74** and **75** is provided in the corresponding third and fourth tube support portions **74** and **75** of the case **18**. Because of this, the falling-off of each connection tube **37** from the third and fourth tube support portions **74** and **75** can be suppressed by each protrusion **76**.

(22) The through holes **77** are formed in both sides, respectively, of the internal surface of the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18**, which interpose the second to fourth tube support portions **73** and **75** therebetween. Because of this, the connection tube **37** can be reliably retained within each of the second to fourth tube support portions **73** to **75** easily and reliably by making the wiring pass through the through hole **77** and connecting the end portions of the corresponding wiring in the shape of a ring.

(23) The sidewall of the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18** is configured from a combination of the right sidewall formation member **51** and the left sidewall formation member **52** that result from the division into left and right parts. Because of this, the sidewall of the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18** can be easily formed.

(24) The ink supply apparatus **15** includes the case **18**, the ink accommodating body **17** that is accommodated within the case **18**, and each connection tube **37** that is connected to each ink accommodating body **17**. Because of this, the ink within each ink accommodating body **17** that is accommodated within the case **18** can be supplied to the ink jet printer **12** through each connection tube **37**.

(25) The ink jet printer **12** includes the recording head **28** that can eject the ink supplied through each connection tube **37** of the ink supply apparatus **15** onto the sheet of paper P. Because of this, the ink supplied through each connection tube **37** of the ink supply apparatus **15** is ejected from the recording head **28** onto the sheet of paper P and thus the printing can be performed on the corresponding sheet of paper P.

(26) In the image forming system **11**, the case **18** is arranged beside the image forming apparatus **14** in such a manner that the case **18** is matched with the reading surface **13***a* in terms of height. Because of this, in a case where the original copy G is read that is larger in size than the reading surface **13***a*, one portion of the corresponding original copy G can be supported by the case **18**.

(27) In the image forming system **11**, the case **18** is smaller in height than the reading surface **13***a*. Because of this, when the original copy G larger in size than the reading surface **13***a* is placed on the corresponding reading surface **13***a*, the corresponding original copy G getting stuck in the case **18** can be suppressed.

(28) In the image forming system **11**, the case **18** is attached to the ink jet printer **12** of the image forming apparatus **14** in a freely attachable and detachable manner. Because of this, the case **18** can be freely attached and detached to and from the ink jet printer **12**.

Modification Example

Moreover, the embodiments described above may be changed to different embodiments as follows.

As illustrated in FIG. **23**, in the image forming system **11**, an extension cassette unit **141** that has a paper sheet cassette **140** for extension may be installed under the image forming apparatus **14**. In this case, a pedestal **142** is installed under the case **18**. The pedestal **142** is one example of an adjusting member that performs adjustment in such a manner that the height of the case **18** is increased as much as the height of the image forming apparatus **14** is changed in an increasing manner. In this manner, the extension cassette unit **141** and the pedestal **142** are installed, as a set, in the image forming system **11**, and thus a positional relationship between the height of the case **18** and the height of the reading surface **13***a* can be maintained.

At this point, a configuration of the pedestal **142** is described in detail.

As illustrated in FIG. **24** and FIG. **25**, the pedestal **142** in the shape of a rectangular box having the bottom has a recess portion **143**, recessed in the shape of a rectangle, in the middle portion of the lower surface thereof. An elevation portion **144**, which is elevated as much as the recess portion **143** is recessed, is formed in the middle portion of the internal bottom surface of the pedestal **142**. The upper surface of the elevation portion **144** is flat. Multiple (here, 10 pieces) support ribs **145**, each in the shape of a plate, are provided in the vicinity of the elevation portion **144** on the internal bottom surface of the pedestal **142**, in such a manner that they are appropriately spaced relative to one another and surround the elevation portion **144**. Then, in a case where the pedestal **142** is installed under the case **18**, the elevation portion **144** is made to adheres to the middle portion of the bottom wall formation member **50** that makes up the case **18** using a double-sided adhesive tape (an illustration thereof is omitted), and the periphery portion of the upper end of the pedestal **142** is engaged with the periphery portion of the lower surface of the bottom wall formation member **50**.

As illustrated in FIG. **26**, in the image forming system **11**, the auto document feeder **16** may be changed to a lid member **146** that can open and close the reading surface **13***a*.

As illustrated in FIG. **27**, in the image forming system **11**, in a case where the ink jet printer **12** is a single-color printer that accommodates only black ink, the case **18** of the ink supply apparatus **15** may be changed to a case with the size that accommodates one ink accommodating body **17** that accommodates the black ink. In this case, the ink accommodating body **17** is accommodated within the case **18** in such a manner that the width of the ink accommodating body **17** becomes the forward and backward direction. Moreover, in FIG. **27**, the lid **21** is omitted that covers the opening portion **19** of the case **18** in such a manner that the opening portion **19** can be freely opened and closed.

As illustrated in FIG. **28**, a communication hole **147**, through which the inside of the corresponding ink pulling tube **99** and the inside of the ink bag **90** communicate with each other, may be provided in the upper end portion of the

ink pulling tube **99**. With this configuration, when the ink pulling portion **91** is arranged to be positioned vertically upward over the ink bag **90** and the ink is ejected into the ink bag **90**, the bubbles mixed with the ink within the ink bag **90** can be discharged from the communication hole **147** to the outside of the ink accommodating body **17**. In this case, the communication hole **100** in the ink pulling portion **91** may be omitted.

As illustrated in FIG. **28**, a spindle **148** may be arranged in the lower end portion, the end portion of the ink pulling tube **99**, which is opposite to the ink pulling portion **91**. The spindle **148** takes the shape of a cylinder and is inserted into the lower end of the ink pulling tube **99**. In this case, the ink pulling tube **99** is not necessarily required to be configured from a material that is higher in specific gravity than the ink with which the ink bag **90** is filled. When this is done, the floating of the ink pulling tube **99** in the ink within the ink bag **90** can be effectively suppressed. For this reason, because the ink positioned in the lower end opposite to the ink pulling portion **91** within the ink bag **90** is guided to the ink pulling portion **91** by the ink pulling tube **99**, the ink remaining within the ink bag **90** can be reduced. Furthermore, in a case where the tube in the shape of a cylinder, as the spindle, the corresponding tube may be configured from a pliable material, such as an elastomer, in the same manner as the connection passage member **98**. In this case, even though the ink pulling tube **99** is made from a comparatively-hard material, there is an effect in which damage to the ink bag **90** can be prevented.

As illustrated in FIG. **29**, the ink pulling tube **99** may be covered by a cover member **149**. In this case, as one example, the cover member **149** is configured from a coil spring. When this is done, the floating of the ink pulling tube **99** in the ink within the ink bag **90** can be suppressed due to the weight of the cover member **149**. In this case, an average specific gravity of a material that makes up the ink pulling tube **99** and a material that makes up the cover member **149** may be higher than the specific gravity of the ink with which the ink bag **90** is filled. Furthermore, in this case, if the spindle **148** is attached to the lower end portion of the ink pulling tube **99**, the ink pulling tube **99** is not necessarily required to be configured from a material that is higher in specific gravity than the ink with which the ink bag **90** is filled.

As illustrated in FIG. **30**, in the image forming system **11**, the case **18** may be arranged beside the reading apparatus **13** in such a manner that the upper surfaces of the case **18** is matched with the reading surface **13***a* in terms of height. In this case, an extension portion **12***a* that can support the case **18** may be protrusively provided on the lateral surface of the ink jet printer **12**, and thus the case **18** may be supported by the corresponding extension portion **12***a*.

In ink accommodating body **17**, the ink pulling tube **99** that makes up the passage **99***a* may be omitted.

The support member **92** of the ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to support the ink bag **90** with both sides thereof that interpose the ink pulling portion **91** therebetween.

The support member **92** of the ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to support the ink pulling portion **91** in the ink accommodating body **17**.

The upper end on which the ink pulling portion **91** is formed is supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18**, and thus the ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to be suspended. That is, the ink accommodating body **17** may be accommodated in a state where it is placed on the internal bottom surface of the case **18**. In this case, the internal bottom surface (the bottom wall **49**) of the case **18** functions as a support portion that supports the ink accommodating body **17**.

Instead of the support member **92** as the liquid accommodating body support portion, a hard support portion in the shape that can be supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18** may be provided on the upper end portion (one end to the side of the ink pulling portion **91**) of the ink bag **90** of the ink accommodating body **17**. When this is done, the ink accommodating body **17** can be handled with the support member being held in a firm grip. The attaching and detaching operation on the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18** of the ink accommodating body **17** can be easily performed.

The ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to be supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18** through the support member **92**.

The distance between the right sidewall **45** and the left sidewall **46** of the case **18** is not necessarily required to be smaller than the width of the ink accommodating body **17**.

The case **18** is not necessarily required to have the transparent left sidewall formation member **52** through which the shriveled state of the ink bag **90** due to the consumption of the ink within the ink accommodating body **17** can be visually recognized.

The opening portion **19** of the case **18** is not necessarily required to be provided on the upper end of the main receptacle body **20** and may be provided on the lateral surface of the main receptacle body **20**.

The lid **21** of the case **18** may be omitted.

All the ink bags **90** are not necessarily required to be configured from the flexible film **90***a*. That is, some of the ink bags **90** may be configured from the flexible portion that is made from a flexible material. Furthermore, a material that makes up the flexible portion of the ink bag **90** may be transparent or may be opaque.

The ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to be detachably and attachably supported by the right concavity portion **56** and the left concavity portion **59** in the case **18**, in such a manner that the ink pulling portion **91** is positioned higher in the gravity direction than the ink bag **90**.

The ink introduction needle **80** may be omitted, and the end portion of the connection tube **37** may be configured in such a manner that it is connected directly to the ink pulling portion **91**. In this case, the end portion of the ink pulling portion **91** that is connected to the connection tube **37** functions as the liquid introduction portion.

The ink pulling tube **99** of the ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to be connected to the ink pulling portion **91** through the flexible connection passage member **98**. That is, the ink pulling tube **99** may be connected to the ink pulling portion **91** using a bonding agent, an adhesive tape, or the like.

Instead of the inclination portion **101**, a curvature portion in the shape of a curve as the guide portion may be formed within the ink bag **90** of the ink accommodating body **17**, in such a manner as to ascend toward the communication hole **100**.

The communication hole **100** in the ink pulling portion **91** of the ink accommodating body **17** may be omitted.

The ink pulling tube **99** of the ink accommodating body **17** is not necessarily required to be configured from a material that is higher in specific gravity than the ink accommodated in the ink bag **90**.

Only one portion, in the direction of the lower end, of the ink pulling tube **99** of the ink accommodating body **17**, which is opposite to the ink pulling portion **91**, may be configured from a material that is higher in specific gravity than the ink accommodated in the ink bag **90**.

The sidewall of the main receptacle body **20** of the case **18** is not necessarily required to be configured from a combination of the right sidewall formation member **51** and the left sidewall formation member **52** that result from the division into left and right parts. That is, the sidewall of the main receptacle body **20** may be configured from a combination of three or more members that result from the division into three parts and may be configured from one member that does not result from the division.

The through hole **77** formed in the main receptacle body **20** in the case **18** may be omitted.

Each protrusion **76** formed on the third and fourth tube support portions **74** and **75** in the case **18** may be omitted.

The notch portion **57** provided on the edge member **53** of the case **18** may be omitted.

Instead of the notch portion **57**, a hole through which the connection tube **37** can be inserted may be provided in the edge member **53** of the case **18** as the insertion through-portion.

The edge member **53** of the case **18** is not necessarily required to cover the first to fourth tube support portions **65** and **73** to **75**.

The lengths of the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** in the case **18** is not necessarily required to differ from one another according to the distances, from the ink accommodating bodies **17** to which the connection tubes **37** guided by the first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** are connected, respectively, to the receptacle-side insertion through hole **61**.

The first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** of the case **18** are not necessarily required to guide the connection tubes **37**, respectively, between the receptacle-side insertion through hole **61** and the ink accommodating bodies **17** accommodated within the main receptacle body **20**.

The first to fourth tube support portions **65**, and **73** to **75** of the case **18** may be omitted.

The guide portion may be configured only from the falling-off suppression portion (each protrusion **76**).

The guide portion may be configured from whatever can make the connection tube **37** access the ink accommodating body **17** along the internal surface of the main receptacle body **20**. For example, the guide portion may be configured from a concavity groove provided in the internal surface of the main receptacle body **20**.

The right sidewall formation member **51** and the left sidewall formation member **52** that make up the main receptacle body **20** may be in the shape of a letter L.

Each protrusion **76** may be formed on all the ribs **66** and **69** and may be formed on some of the ribs **66** and **69**.

If the width of each protrusion **76** is to such an extent that the connection tube **37** is in contact, the size or shape of each protrusion **76** may be arbitrarily changed.

The color of each cap **87** and the color of the ink that accommodated in each ink accommodating body **17** that corresponds to each cap **87** may be matched to each other. When this is done, the connection of the cap **87** to the wrong ink accommodating body **17** can be suppressed.

In the image forming system **11**, the case **18** is not necessarily required to be attached to the ink jet printer **12** of the image forming apparatus **14** in a freely attachable and detachable manner. That is, the case **18** may be fixed to the ink jet printer **12** of the image forming apparatus **14**.

In the image forming system **11**, the matching the heights of the case **18** with the reading surface **13***a* in terms of height may include a tolerance of approximately ±20 mm.

In the image forming system **11**, the height of the case **18** is not necessarily required to be smaller than that of the reading surface **13***a*. That is, the height of the case **18** is the same as that of the reading surface **13***a*, but may be increased to be larger than that of the reading surface **13***a*.

Instead of the sheet of paper P, a plastic film, cloth, metal foil, or the like may be used as a target onto which the ink is ejected.

Instead of the original copy G, a plastic film, cloth, metal foil, or the like may be used as a medium.

According to the embodiments described above, the liquid ejecting apparatus may be a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects or discharges liquid other than ink. Moreover, a state of liquid that is discharged as a minute droplet of liquid from the liquid ejecting apparatus, is defined as including a granular shape, a tear shape, and a thread shape with a tail. Furthermore, the liquid here may be whatever material can be ejected from the liquid ejecting apparatus. For example, a substance in a liquid phase state may be possible. The substance is defined as including a liquid substance with high or low in viscosity, sol, gel water, other inorganic solvents, an organic solvent, a solution, liquid resin, and a fluidal substance such as liquid metal (metallic melt). Furthermore, the substances are defined as including not only liquid as one phase of the substance but also substances that result from particles of a functional material made from solids such as pigments and metal particles being dissolved, distributed, or mixed in a solvent. As a representative example of the liquid, the ink described above according to the embodiment or liquid dispensed onto a print medium before or after printing with the ink, liquid for humidifying or cleaning a liquid ejecting nozzle of the liquid ejecting apparatus, liquid crystal, and the like are enumerated. At this point, the ink is defined as including general water-based ink and solvent ink, and various liquid compositions such as gel ink and hot melt ink. As a specific example of the liquid ejecting apparatus, for example, there is a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects liquid which includes materials in a distributed or dissolved state, such as an electrode material or a coloring material used, for example, in manufacturing a liquid crystal display, an EL (electro luminescence) display, a field emission display, and a color filter. Furthermore, there may be a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects a living body organic material used in manufacturing a biochip, a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects liquid that is a specimen used in a precision pipette, a textile printing apparatus, a micro dispenser and others. Moreover, there may be a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects lubricating oil into a precision machine such as a watch and a camera using a pinpoint, and a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects transparent resin liquid such as ultraviolet curing resin onto a substrate to form a micro hemisphere lens (an optical lens) used in an optical telecommunication element and the like. Furthermore, there may be a liquid ejecting apparatus that ejects etching liquid such as acid and alkali to etch the substrate and others.

The entire disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 2013-046035, filed Mar. 7, 2013 is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates a liquid accommodating body that accommodates liquid,

a tube through which the liquid in the liquid accommodating body can be supplied; and

a liquid ejecting apparatus that is capable of ejecting the liquid supplied through the tube and a reading apparatus which has a reading surface on which that a medium that is arranged on the liquid ejecting apparatus is read,

the reading apparatus being disposed above the liquid ejecting apparatus and the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle being located outside of a main body case of the liquid ejecting apparatus and the reading apparatus;

an operation panel that is operated to read an image;

wherein the operation panel is lower than the reading surface, and

wherein an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is arranged transversely to the reading apparatus and is height fit with the reading surface.

2. An image forming system comprising:

a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates a liquid accommodating body that accommodates liquid;

a tube through which the liquid in the liquid accommodating body can be supplied; and

an image forming apparatus that has a liquid ejecting apparatus that is capable of ejecting the liquid supplied through the tube and a reading apparatus that has a reading surface on which that a medium that is arranged on the liquid ejecting apparatus is read, the reading apparatus being disposed above the liquid ejecting apparatus, wherein the liquid-accommodating-body is located outside of a main body case of the liquid ejecting apparatus and the reading apparatus,

an operation panel that is operated to read an image;

wherein the operation panel is lower than the reading surface, and

wherein an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is arranged transversely to the reading apparatus and is height fit with the reading surface.

3. An image forming system comprising:

a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates a liquid accommodating body that accommodates liquid;

a tube through which the liquid in the liquid accommodating body can be supplied; and

an image forming apparatus that has a liquid ejecting apparatus that is capable of ejecting the liquid supplied through the tube and a reading apparatus that has a reading surface on which that a medium that is arranged on the liquid ejecting apparatus is read, the reading apparatus being disposed above the liquid ejecting apparatus, wherein the liquid accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is located outside of the reading surface, the reading apparatus, and a main body case of the image forming apparatus,

an operation panel that is operated to read an image;

wherein the operation panel is lower than the reading surface, and

wherein an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is transversely arranged on the same plane or lower than the reading surface of the reading apparatus.

4. The image forming system according to claim **2**,

wherein the liquid ejecting apparatus includes an extension portion that extends so as to support the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle.

5. The image forming system according to claim **3** further comprising:

an extension portion that extends so as to support the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle.

6. The image forming system according to claim **2**,

wherein an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is lower in height than the reading surface.

7. The image forming system according to claim **2**,

wherein the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is attached with respect to the image forming apparatus in a freely attachable and detachable manner.

8. The image forming system according to claim **3**,

wherein the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is attached with respect to the image forming apparatus in a freely attachable and detachable manner.

9. The image forming system according to claim **2**, further comprising:

an adjusting member that, if a height of the image forming apparatus is changed, adjusts a height of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle in accordance with the change in the height of the image forming apparatus.

10. The image forming system according to claim **3**, further comprising:

an adjusting member that, if a height of the image forming apparatus is changed, adjusts a height of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle in accordance with the change in the height of the image forming apparatus.

11. An image forming system comprising:

a liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that accommodates a liquid accommodating body that accommodates liquid;

a tube through which the liquid in the liquid accommodating body can be supplied; and

an image forming apparatus that has a liquid ejecting apparatus that is capable of ejecting the liquid supplied through the tube and a reading apparatus that has a reading surface on which that a medium that is arranged on the liquid ejecting apparatus is read, the reading apparatus being disposed above the liquid ejecting apparatus, wherein the liquid accommodating-body is located outside of a main body case of the image forming apparatus and the reading apparatus,

an operation panel that is operated to read an image;

wherein the operation panel is lower than the reading surface, and

wherein an upper part of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is arranged transversely to the reading apparatus so as to be supported with a reading medium protrudes from the reading surface to the outside.

12. An image forming system according to claim **3**, wherein an upper surface of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle is arranged 20 mm lower than the reading surface beside the reading apparatus.

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the upper part of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that supports with a reading medium protrudes from the reading surface to the outside.

14. The image forming system according to claim **2**, wherein the upper part of the liquid-accommodating-body accommodating receptacle that supports with a reading medium protrudes from the reading surface to the outside.

15. The image forming system according to claim **3**, wherein the upper part of the liquid-accommodating-body

accommodating receptacle that supports with a reading medium protrudes from the reading surface to the outside.

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